

*Hafa Adai!*

Kagman Community Health  
Center turns 2.

» PAGE 2

Tagabuel is new Carolinian  
Affairs Office chief.

» PAGE 7

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## Use of Medicaid at private clinics is extended to June

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

CNMI Medicaid has extended until June 30 an agreement that allows private clinics to accept Medicaid patients who are under 18 years old for outpatient services.

CNMI Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan said the extension gives three of the main clinics that accept Medicaid patients—Saipan Health Clinic, Pacific Medical Center, and Marianas Medical

See MEDICAID on Page 4

### LEGISLATURE TO ISSUE JOINT LETTER

'Extend time to  
review draft EIS'

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
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REPORTER

The Legislature is set to draft a letter calling for an extension on the review of the draft environmental impact statement on proposed military activities in the CNMI.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier sent a similar letter, requesting for a six-month extension of the EIS review.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) and Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) are currently working on the joint letter.

See EXTEND on Page 4

## Doctor hurt in burglary at lawyer's apartment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A physician was injured when he, a lawyer, and a friend were allegedly attacked with a screwdriver when they tried to stop a man from burglarizing an apartment in Garapan on Thursday night.

Dr. Marty Rohringer's left middle knuckle was injured when the suspect, John Chandler Hamilton, 27,

See BURGLARY on Page 4

John Chandler Hamilton, left, emerges with a court marshal from the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho after yesterday's bail hearing. Hamilton allegedly attacked a doctor, a lawyer, and another man who tried to stop him after he burglarized an apartment unit in Garapan on Thursday night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» Suspect allegedly attacked doctor, lawyer, another tenant for stopping him



## INSIDE



### ASIA

Chinese authorities brought in curbs on travel to Hong Kong.

» PAGE 15



### WORLD

Turkey recalls its ambassador over Pope Francis' Armenia genocide words.

» PAGE 16



### LIFE & STYLE

Shailene Woodley and 'Fault In Our Stars' win big at the MTV Movie Awards.

» PAGE 19



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# Local

## PSS sets 2019 goal to up reading level of SpED students

The Public School System aims to have 55 percent of third grade special education students perform at or above reading proficiency levels by 2019.

This goal was defined in a recently completed State Systemic Improvement Plan submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs last month.

The goal, or the state-identified measurable result, states that by June 30, 2019, "at least 55 percent of third grade students with [individualized education plans] in three target schools will perform at or above reading proficiency against grade level and alternate academic achievement standards as measured by state assessment."

PSS SpED director Suzanne Lizama said the plan now awaits federal review.

She said the Office of Special Education Programs will review the plan and let PSS know by June 15 if the plan is "approvable" or not.

She said the plan focuses on the goal to increase academic literacy in the third grade for three target schools—ones with the largest population of students.

The goal is to "prevent the literacy gap from happening, because it is much harder to close a gap than prevent a gap," she explained.

Lizama said that Phase 1 of the plan, which was the exten-

sive data needed to support their state goal, was completed.

The next phase would be to develop a plan on how they are going to achieve this goal. This plan would be due February 2016.

According to the SSIP, available on the PSS website, the overall trend data for reading proficiency of third grade students indicates "a downward trend over the last four years."

"The proficiency gap between 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students with and without disabilities has steadily increased over the past few years and the gap continues in subsequent grades," the SSIP says.

"The data indicates that stu-

dents start out in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with low reading performance and end high school with low reading performance."

The SSIP lays out target goals. The 2013-2014 baseline is at 14 percent of third graders in three target schools reading at or above proficiency.

For 2014-2015, the target is 21 percent.

For 2015-2016, this is set at 29 percent.

For 2016-2017, the target is at 37 percent.

For 2017-2018, this is at 46 percent.

Phase II of the SSIP, or its implementation, will address the "root causes" for low reading proficiency. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

## Teen arrested many times for violent crimes

Police arrested on Friday a male teenager who allegedly assaulted several persons, including a minor and a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Police served 18-year-old Cling Phillip Gilbert Kaipat with an arrest warrant for assault and battery, domestic violence, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the \$10,000 cash bail the court earlier imposed on him.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 22 at 9am. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for the suspect.

Police detective Jesus K. Wabol stated in his report that a police officer responded to a call about an assault and battery incident at a residence behind Oleai Store last April 6 at 9:55pm. The officer met with a man who claimed that Kaipat beat him up.

The man had a swollen and lacerated left eye and bloodied left ear. Medics brought the victim to the hospital.

Wabol learned that Kaipat had entered the victim's

house and ate their food. When the victim confronted him, Kaipat punched him in the face and head.

Police also learned that a day before the incident, Kaipat also punched the victim's 12-year-old son in the face for no apparent reason.

Wabol said Kaipat was also arrested last Feb. 12 for slapping a man in the face thrice and cussing at him along the pathway across J's Restaurant in Chalan Lau Lau.

Six days later, Wabol said, a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center called police after Kaipat allegedly punched a nurse in the stomach and threatened to chop his head off. At the time, Kaipat was a patient at CHC's psychiatric ward.

Wabol said police also arrested Kaipat last Feb. 26, this time for damaging the door of an apartment and the rear passenger door of a vehicle.

Last March 31, Kaipat was arrested for criminal trespass at Marianas High School.

Last April 4, he was arrested for disturbing the peace and resisting arrest. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## CUC board pushes for apprenticeship training

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has directed CUC management to develop a U.S. Department of Labor-certified apprenticeship program in coordination with institutions on Saipan and in Guam.

After discussions last week, board director Diego Songao moved that CUC administration coordinate an apprenticeship program with not only the Northern Marianas Technical Institute but other institutions, and to ensure that the curriculum established will be approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Songao initiated the discussion when he asked CUC executive director Alan Fletcher about the "estimated costs" for contract worker apprentices, pointing to the CW period that expires in 2019.

Fletcher said they try to work closely with NMTI to develop these workers "within their limits." He said the institute doesn't have all the funding they need for a full apprenticeship program.

He said the apprenticeship programs at the Northern Mari-

anas College were fleeting, noting the college has tried for years to get one going. "It has not been successful," he said.

"The whole infrastructure in the CNMI is not really there for this workforce... We are trying to do it in-house, as much possible, within our budgets. We do have some budgets that would like to expand. We are getting pricing from technicians... as well as continuing to work with NMC and NMTI as they develop their funding sources," he said.

"It is not where it should be by any means," he added.

Board director David Sablan Jr. suggested asking the Guam Power Authority to share their apprenticeship curriculum with NMC and have the college develop it. He noted that in this program the contract worker employee would act as a mentor.

The type of apprenticeship was not specified in the motion. But discussion indicated this might focus on "the technical field of power generation."

**(Dennis B. Chan)**



## JP & CANCER Alertness Walk

Tan Holdings will hold its annual walk in memory of former Tan Holdings executive John Pangelinan on

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

Registration starts at 4:00pm at  
Beach Road Pavilion, across JP Center

- \$5.00 registration fee (includes raffle ticket)
  - \$10.00 registration fee (includes raffle ticket and T-shirt\*)
- \*A commemorative T-shirt will be given to the first 150 participants who sign up.

**Proceeds will benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Marianas March Against Cancer**

- Refreshments and raffle prizes will be available at the Susupe Beach Park finish line

**Lots of prizes are up for grabs!**

**For more information, please contact Ms. Celia Pillarina or Anne Navarrete at 235-0560 ext. 155 or 171 or send an email to [celia\\_pillarina@tanholdings.com](mailto:celia_pillarina@tanholdings.com).**

*John passed away in Feb. 5, 2008. At the time of his death, he was the publisher of Saipan Tribune. Before joining the Tribune, John worked for Tan Holdings for 23 years in various capacities in both Saipan and Guam. John was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937.*



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# CPA remains steadfast in opposing divert initiative

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
Joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority remains firm in its decision to oppose the U.S. military's hybrid divert airfield plan, which entails putting up military infrastructure on Saipan and Tinian.

Newly confirmed CPA board member Jose Lifofoi said "there is no change in the position" of the CPA in opposing the divert plan.

Lifofoi, who will also serve as CPA board chair, said there is no scheduled meeting yet between the CPA and military representatives on the divert plan.

But a meeting is expected to happen soon, as the CPA board now has a quorum after the confirmation of Lifofoi during a Senate special session on Friday.

"We expect to meet with them [U.S. military] now that the CPA board is complete," Lifofoi said.

Aside from Lifofoi, Pete P. Reyes and Roman Tudela were also confirmed as CPA board members.

Last February, the CPA met with lawmakers to again emphasize that they will not give in to the military's plan to have

a divert airfield on Saipan as it would interfere with the commercial operation of the Saipan airport.

Saipan is the U.S. Air Force's preferred alternative for its divert plans in the CNMI, according to a draft environmental impact statement published earlier.

The CPA board of directors essentially said "no" to this alternative in a resolution.

In January, CPA met with Marine Forces Pacific to discuss a proposed airport layout plan inclusive of the military's aim to build on the Tinian Westfield Airport.

The meeting included CPA, its stakeholders, MARFORPAC, and Federal Aviation Administration officials.

The meeting continues the "informal" dialog that began between the FAA, military working groups and CPA in Seattle, Washington, last November.

MARFORPAC would like CPA to submit an airport layout plan to the FAA that includes its plans to build a parallel runway, an air traffic control tower, power and waste management facilities, fuel storage facilities, and other infrastructure at the Tinian airport.

Also being considered is an amendment to FAA rules to allow restricted airspace over the Tinian airport to support live fire training there. FAA restricts military activity from 1,500 feet above and below ground level within three nautical miles of airports or civilian use.

## Bill seeks to beef up CNMI's funds in war vs drugs

A proposed bill seeks to allocate \$300,000 to the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance to supplement the drug enforcement efforts of the two agencies.

Introduced by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), House Bill 19-48 proposes that the additional funds come from the Commonwealth Alien Deportation Fund, created under Public Law 10-01.

H.B. 19-48 was recently introduced during a House session on Rota on Thursday.

Propst earlier said the use of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" continues to be a growing problem in the CNMI, reaching "epidemic proportions within our villages and borders."

Aside from its own budget, DPS has traditionally been getting funds from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, a grant used to inhibit any criminal activity.

But the JAG funding has decreased over the years—from \$1 million to about \$280,000—and DPS now only gets \$50,000 out of this fund for fiscal year 2015.

This substantial decrease reportedly led drug enforcement agencies to have funding problems.

According to Propst's proposed bill, \$200,000 will be allocated to the Special Operations Section (narcotics unit) of the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation, a sub-agency under the DPS.

The proposed fund is expected to be used for intelligence operations such as confidential informant services, evidence, and information, as well as technical equipment, including field drug identification kits.

The training of operatives and CNMI officers to Guam are also expected to be funded.

The remaining \$100,000 is proposed to be allocated to operations of the Customs Enforcement Branch (K-9 unit) of the Customs Division under the Department of Finance.

These operations include confidential informant services, evidence, and information, technical equipment purchase, and training activities.

Public Law 10-01, or the Alien Deportation Law, was

created to assist in the investigation, apprehension, detention, and deportation of illegal aliens. Then governor Froilan C. Tenorio signed it into law on Feb. 28, 1996.

The alien deportation fund was established by taking \$25 from every initial application fee and from every renewal fee for nonresident worker permits. It is a dedicated fund in the CNMI Treasury. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

## Lawmakers start looking into Inos' budget proposal for '16

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
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REPORTER

The \$145.8-million government budget for fiscal year 2016 was officially introduced to members of the House of Representatives at a special session on Rota last week.

The House Committee on Ways and Means will now start looking at the budget proposal in detail and schedule several hearings.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who heads the committee, said the hearings will be tentatively scheduled after the Rota session last Thursday.

The budget was submitted April 1.

In an initial review, Sablan said the budget requests of government departments and their respective activities exceeded the \$145.8-million proposed budget by \$38.7 million, Sablan said.

This means not all government departments will get the exact budget that they asked for.

Sablan said his committee will have to sit down with the departments and find out how to "help" these departments with their budget requests.

Like previous years, he said it will be a "challenge" to allocate the available resources, as the departments' budget requests

contain budget for personnel and other "activities."

"We would have to find out which positions are critical and which are not," he said, adding that departments will also need to identify priorities.

"We will also try to look for items that are not necessary and which are not, and from there, maybe make the necessary adjustments on a department's budget request," he said.

He stressed that once the budget is finalized, the government is bound to "work" with it.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos submitted a budget proposal of \$145.8 million to the Legislature to beat the April 1 deadline. The budget represents an increase of \$11.5 million, or 8.55 percent, from the budget of the previous fiscal year.

The budget was derived from the gross budgetary resources reported by the Secretary of Finance for fiscal year 2016 at \$183.55 million.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) earlier said \$145.8 million is "better than \$134 million."

Before the budget submission deadline on April 1, the government hinted that the fiscal year 2016 budget might be \$134 million, the same budget it had for fiscal year 2015.



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# Two 40-foot, two 20-foot containers for Maysak victims

By JAYSON CAMACHO

jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the community, two 40-foot containers and possibly two 20-foot containers will be shipped to the Federated States of Micronesia as part of the relief effort for Typhoon Maysak victims.

Maysak ripped through FSM in early April, resulting in more than 5,000 people in desperate need of food, emergency assistance, water, and shelter.

According to CNMI-FSM Typhoon Relief Effort Committee member Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu, the 40-foot container at McDonald's is now full because of the generous donations over

the weekend.

Aside from in-kind donations, Ayuyu said they also collected about \$1,500 in cash last weekend and that they will use the money to purchase rice.

"A lot of the farms, breadfruit trees, and other produce that they rely on have been destroyed and they are running out of rice down there because there are so many people in need of food. So we will purchase rice with the money we have and put it in the containers," she said.

Ayuyu said the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's containers will be used as well for donations made through the weekend, due to the limited space in the two containers used during the relief drive.



Ayuyu

During the relief drive, one 40-foot container was provided for Chuuk and it received donations at the Garapan Fishing Base, while one 20-foot container was used at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe and it will be bound for Yap.

"What I'm going to do is try and get another 20-foot container for the donations made to Yap because they told me that it is full already," said Ayuyu.

Companies that contributed to the relief drive over the weekend were Triple J Motors Saipan, IT&E, Joeten Kiyu Public Library as well as other organizations and community members.

It included rice, bottled water, mostly clothing, rice, canned goods, and other non-perishable items.

"It was a very successful event and we'd like to thank the community for the big support to helping our neighboring islands and special thanks to KKMP, the administration of

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, and Rep. Angel Demapan," said Ayuyu.

Ayuyu noted that McDonald's sales also did quite well over the weekend. This augurs well for the relief drive because a percentage of the restaurant's sales during the weekend will be donated to the Chuuk relief drive.

"We are very busy in gathering all the donations so what I

will do is take all the sales we made and work on them and we'll let everyone know when it is ready," said Ayuyu, who owns McDonald's Saipan.

Deadline for donations to the Maysak relief drive is April 14. For more information or to donate to the relief drive, contact McDonald's Middle Road at 235-8577 or McDonald's Garapan at 233-8577.

## EXTEND

From Page 1

Demapan and Palacios chair the House and the Senate committees on Federal and Foreign Affairs, respectively.

"I am in full support of the governor's request for a six-month extension of the 60-day comment period regarding the CJMT Draft EIS/OEIS," Demapan said.

"Gov. Inos' letter is timely as I, along with Senator Palacios, will be issuing a joint letter requesting that the Commonwealth be afforded a six-month extension as well," Demapan said.

"Proposals contained in the report are poised to dramatically impact the Commonwealth in every way, shape or form," he said. "In consideration of the potential impact, I agree that the CNMI must be afforded ample time and opportunity to examine the draft that was recently released."

Demapan added that he believes lawmakers "are not asking for much."

"This is a request we are making in good faith as we carry out our sworn duty to protect the interests of our Commonwealth, our people and the generations to come. A matter of this magnitude cannot and shall not be allowed to be done in haste," he said.

The call for the review extension gained momentum after military representatives conducted meetings in the CNMI,

eventually leading to the release of the draft EIS.

Demapan, who initiated the first meeting, said, "there is still a great deal to find out because this is an ongoing process."

Lawmakers have described the draft EIS as too technical and that a battalion of experts might be needed for a comprehensive review of the document, which has more than 1,000 pages.

Experts will also be needed to analyze and study the document, as well as funds.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) said, "even our scholars here [in the CNMI] need further clarifications" on the draft EIS.

He said he has instructed the Senate committee handling the EIS to seek ways to "re-program" some funding to be used for the EIS analysis.

At a Senate session on Friday, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) said lawmakers will work on assisting Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan for a \$75,000 funding to study the draft EIS, particularly on Pagan.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), meanwhile, said the Department of the Interior has announced a technical assistance grant of \$250,000 to the Commonwealth's Office of the Governor to hire environmental experts to review the draft EIS.

Sablan said the funds are appropriated by Congress and allows the department to respond to "critical needs in the insular areas for which local funds are not available."

## Festpac organizing committee formed

By DENNIS B. CHAN

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REPORTER

An organizing committee is ready to go for 2016's Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam. Meanwhile, they wait official confirmation from the governor on the CNMI's participation.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Angel Hocog said yesterday that he recently sent a letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, introducing the organizing committee for the Pacific Arts Festival, or Festpac.

According to Hocog, the governor of Guam has sent an invitation to the CNMI for the festival.

Over 27 countries from around the Pacific join this event. Each delegation is allowed to bring 150 members to the event that is "a showcase for arts and culture," according to Hocog.

He said the Festpac committee is ready to start preparation, noting that they've identified a number of traditional or visual artists, for example, that will make up the delegation.

"We wanted to reach out to him [Inos] and know the status of the invitation letter that was sent out to him. We are waiting for the governor's confirmation, and hopefully he will schedule a meeting with the Festpac committee members."

"We are going to be doing a lot of community fundraising. In the weeks or months to come, the community will be seeing people out there soliciting for the festival," he said.

He said the festival "requires a tremendous amount" for travel costs. In past years, he said

the government helped with 80 percent of costs, while the delegation came up with 20 percent.

"Since Guam is closer, I hope we can get the full support," he said.

The chairman of the Festpac organizing committee is John Oliver Gonzales. Vice chairman is Perry Tenorio. Second vice chairman is Gordon Marciano. Treasurer is Margaret Muna. Secretary is Gloriana Teuria. Hocog is the committee's adviser.

For their subcommittees, leading the "traditional and visual arts" committee is Francis Sablan. Leading the "performing arts" is Joe Limes.

## NMC wants Pangelinan's declaration invalidated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College yesterday asked the federal court to strike and not to consider the declaration of NMI Settlement Fund administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan in connection with the issue on employer contribution rate.

NMC, through counsel Mark Scoggins, also asked the court to strike and not consider two exhibits and certain statements and arguments of the Settlement Fund trustee.

Scoggins said the general rule

is that "issues raised for the first time in a reply are deemed and waived."

Scoggins said the trustee has not sought court's permission to file an untimely affidavit, and has not provided any reason that the information could not have been raised in the motion.

The lawyer said the court should strike Pangelinan's affidavit, the trustee's two exhibits, and not consider arguments based upon them, or other new arguments raised for the first time in reply.

Scoggins said the court should strike and not consider

all arguments based on the idea that there is some statute which, it is argued, requires that all autonomous agencies were "...obligated to pay the same rate as all other agencies..."

"These arguments were not raised in the motion," he said.

The lawyer added that none of the new arguments, statements, or evidence is particularly responsive to NMC's opposition.

"Instead, it all seems to be just new material the trustee thought to raise at the last minute," he said.

In her declaration, Pangelinan

said although 30 percent was the applicable employer contribution rate as of June 26, 2013, a number of government agencies are actually paying above 30 percent.

Pangelinan said all other government agencies (with the exception of NMC) were paying at the 30 percent ERC rate as of June 26, 2013.

Pangelinan issued the declaration to support the Settlement Fund trustee's motion to compel NMC to pay the 30 percent rate as per the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

## BURGLARY

From Page 1

allegedly swung a screwdriver at him and at attorney Mathew Jay Holley and Adam Z. Harris.

Rohringer, Holley, and Harris subsequently pinned Hamilton to the floor of the Brabu Pharmacy building until a police officer arrived.

Hamilton was arrested for burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Police said Hamilton confessed that he burglarized Holley's apartment by entering the front door and that he stole a laptop and a purple purse.

His bail was set yesterday at \$20,000 cash.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said a private counsel will be appointed for Hamilton after Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig withdrew as counsel as Holley used to be an assistant public defender.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 22 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government at the hearing.

Police detective Edward M. Cepeda stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to a reported robbery in progress near Brabu Pharmacy on Thursday at 9:47pm.

When the officer arrived at the scene, Rohringer, who was on the second floor of the build-

ing, flagged him down.

When the officer reached the second floor of the building, he saw Rohringer, Holley, and Harris pinning down Hamilton on the floor. Rohringer, Holley, and Harris are tenants of the building.

According to Holley, he was inside Rohringer's apartment on the second floor when they heard his wife screaming from their unit on the third floor.

Holley and Rohringer ran out of the apartment and saw Hamilton running down the stairs holding a purse, laptop, and other items.

Holley and Rohringer tried to stop Hamilton, who allegedly pulled an orange screwdriver and swung it at them,

hitting the doctor.

Holley and Rohringer, with the assistance of Harris, then subdued Hamilton.

Police learned that prior to the burglary, Holley and his family visited Rohringer's apartment.

Holley's wife and their son later decided to go back to their unit on the third floor because they were tired.

When the wife entered their apartment, she noticed her laptop was missing on the table. She later heard noise coming from one of the rooms.

When she checked the room, she saw Hamilton holding her purse and some bags and running out of the door. She then screamed for help.

## MEDICAID

From Page 1

Center—a three-month leeway.

Earlier, these three private clinics were given only from January to March to accept Medicaid patients.

Sablan earlier said that Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña needed to issue a letter certifying whether or not CHCC is willing to extend the period for Medicaid patients to avail of the services of private clinics. Muña sent the letter in March, extending the services.

"To ensure community health needs are met, this is to certify that CHCC will need assistance of private practitioners for outpatient services provided to adults and children," Muña had said.

The CNMI Medicaid Office's

latest data show that it has had more than 5,000 Medicaid applicants so far this year.

The only time that CHCC is able to certify services and seek help from private clinics is if CHCC is not able to accommodate the patients.

The revised state plan, which has been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 9, requires Medicaid patients to first seek treatment at CHCC and does not allow private clinics to provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries unless CHCC is not able to accommodate the patients.

The whole purpose of the state plan is to help the Medicaid program meet its financial goals because they had a cash flow issue in 2012.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from clinic providers as of press time.



# Kagman Community Health Center turns 2

## »Tinian, Rota may also have community health centers

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
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REPORTER

The Kagman Community Health Center marked its second anniversary yesterday morning with a small get-together with staff, lawmakers, government officials, and health providers.

The center’s executive director, Vince Castro, said it is a great achievement to turn the old juvenile detention center in just two years into a successful and prospering health center for the community.

“Even though this is our second anniversary, KCHC actually

has been applying for the grant since 2003. That is when the vision came out to have a community health center here on Saipan. They chose this area and it was renovated into the health center it is today,” Castro said.

“It is not successful by itself; it is the community’s collaboration,” he added.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who spoke on behalf of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, said the center is a good opportunity for advancing healthcare for the community of Kagman, but in reality it is actually an opportunity to advance healthcare for the whole island.

Because of the success of KCHC, Torres said the Inos administration is working on expanding the same model to Rota and Tinian.

Castro noted that they finally got their first grant in 2012; back then, it was only \$608,000. In 2013, it went up \$650,000 and from 2014 to this year it totaled \$984,000.

“This is a big jump from the beginning. There will be more to come in the future,” Castro said.

KCHC board chair Velma Palacios said it was an honor for KCHC to finally open after almost 10 years of waiting. Palacios said she was already a board member before KCHC came into play back in 2002.

Castro and Palacios said that

they have partnered with Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority to provide patients transportation services, due to some patients missing their appointments.

They are now looking at extending and expanding their services in Kagman with additional

buildings since they don’t just serve the patients from Kagman but also those from other villages.

“We want to improve KCHC’s access to the community and its clients because providing all levels of care and the quality of care is necessary,” Palacios said.

Other officials who attended the celebration were Reps. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Everyone is welcome at the Kagman Community Health Center, even those who reside outside Kagman. To make an appointment or to get more information, call 256-5242.

## BECQ to charge storage fee for impounded pesticides

The Bureau of Environmental Quality recently published the adoption of rule regarding the pesticide storage fees in the *Commonwealth Register*, Volume 37, Number 1 dated Jan. 28, 2015.

The purpose and objective of the rule is to ensure compliance with the CNMI Pesticide Regulations. The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality’s Division of Environmental Quality requires the consignee/importer who imports a pesticide or device that has been detained or denied entry and impounded to pay a non-refundable storage fee. These fees shall be based on the volume and characteristics. Additional fees related to cartage, labor, shipping, and disposal costs may be assessed in accordance with the Pesticide Regulations.

BECQ administrator Frank M. Rabauliman says the bureau wants to ensure the safety and welfare of DEQ employees, the agents that intercept the illegal pesticides, and members

of the public and the protection of the environment. Thus, while awaiting proper disposition of detained, seized, or impounded pesticides, we need the ability to charge a nominal storage fee.

According to Reina Camacho, pesticides branch manager, the bureau will assess a non-refundable storage fee of \$15 per day for each storage container (i.e., 55-gallon drum) starting from the date of interception by

DEQ or authorized agents, until the pesticides and or devices are returned or disposed.

“It is important that we recover some costs with storage as the agency and importer are negotiating disposal or shipment,” added Camacho.

For more information about the storage fees, contact BECQ at 664-8500 or send an email to [storagetankspesticides@deq.gov.mp](mailto:storagetankspesticides@deq.gov.mp). (**BECQ**)



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**



**INVITATION FOR BID**  
*(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)*


BID SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, May 01, 2015\* \* TIME: 1:00 PM  
**NMHC IFB 2015-005**  
**CLEANING SERVICES FOR NMHC'S CENTRAL OFFICE IN SAIPAN**

Proposal packets will be available on April 06, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be made by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).


A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.

/s/ Tom Glenn A. Quitugua  
Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply



**DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**  
Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
Saipan MP 96950  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**  
**April 14, 2015**

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. H.S. Lee Construction	01/28/2015 SMS-2015-X-005	Three Commercial Hotel	Garapan	Major Siting	Certified Complete (04/13/2015)
2. DCCA	04/09/2015 SSm-2015-X-021	2015 Flame Tree Festival	Civic Center Park	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/10/2015)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Department of Community & Cultural Affairs**  
**Division of Historic Preservation**  
**Historic Preservation Fund Grant**  
**Proposed Work Goals for FY 2015**

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately \$410,831 from the U.S. National Park Service for Fiscal Year 2015. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to the submission of the grant application, the Division of Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities, concerns, projects, and activities it would like to undertake relating to Historic Preservation.

We need your comments particularly on such aspects as:

- 1). What do you think we should be focusing more of this year?
- 2). What particular community projects do you believe is important that we should try to fund?
- 3). What topics should we focus when publishing our ethnographic or archaeological books?
- 4). What particular areas do you want our office to concentrate on surveying or in the identification of cultural materials?
- 5). What aspects of the program do you think we should strengthen?

The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY 2015. We would like to know what you think about them.

- Historic Preservation Legislation Evaluation Project
- HPF Grant Program Audit
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Educate the CNMI's children about historic preservation through school visits, lectures and field trips.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than April 24, 2015. Written comments should be address to CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, P. O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to [mtkani@cnmihpo.net](mailto:mtkani@cnmihpo.net) or [raymuna@gmail.com](mailto:raymuna@gmail.com). Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions or contact us at 664-2120/25.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:


Island	Location	Date	Time
Tinian	Tinian Elementary School	4/17/15	6:00p.m.
Rota	Rota Round House	4/20/15	6:00p.m.
Saipan	Mult Purpose	4/22/15	6:00p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/S/ Mertie T. Kani  
CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer

Concurred by: /S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO  
SECRETARY, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**2 LOTS FOR AUCTION**  
Tracts 22752-4 and 22752-6  
now up for Auction!  
Each tract is 5, 818 sq. meters  
located in I Denni, Capitol Hill Area  
Both available in fee simple.



Auction will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015,  
at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the entranceway of the  
Law Office of S. Joshua Berger, D' Torres Bldg,  
Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI.

Contact Auctioneer, Micheline W. Brel  
at 670-789-0515 or via email: [michbrel@hotmail.com](mailto:michbrel@hotmail.com)  
for more information.



# SMG, Hofschneider and Friends added to MMAC sponsors



Jeff Hofschneider, second from left, and friends hand over a \$1,000 cash donation to Commonwealth Cancer Association board member Maggie Camacho, second from right, and 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer member Nola Hix, right.

Sorensen Media Group Saipan and Jeff Hofschneider and Friends have stepped up to the plate to support the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer. SMG donated \$3,600 worth of airtime, making it a title sponsor, while Hofschneider and Friends donated \$1,000 as a major sponsor.

“The 2015 MMAC committee sincerely appreciates the support that we receive from Sorensen Media Group and grateful for their continuous support and thank Jeff and his friends,” said 2015 MMAC public relations vice chair Chris Concepcion. Businesses, individuals, and organizations that also wish to

support the 2015 MMAC may donate funds, services, or raffle items. Sponsorship levels include title sponsor (donating \$3,000 or more), major sponsor (donating \$1,000 to \$2,999), or supporting sponsorship (donating \$1 to \$999). So far, the 2015 MMAC’s list of sponsors includes Delta



Air Lines, Bank of Guam, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Joteten Daidai Foundation, and Sorensen Media Group Saipan as title sponsors. Xerox, Brabu Pharmacy, Traders Insurance, and Jeff Hofschneider and

Friends are major sponsors. This year’s march will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from May 1 to 2. Money raised from MMAC is used by CCA to promote cancer awareness and prevention, pro-

vide patient support services, and serve as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI. For donations, call committee chair Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email at [nola.hix@gmail.com](mailto:nola.hix@gmail.com). (Jayson Camacho)



Commonwealth Cancer Association board members, 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee members, and Sorensen Media Group staff and management join in a group photo after a donation of \$3,600 worth of airtime.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY (OPEN COMPETITIVE) EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the State Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System’s Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for positions must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Location	Discipline	Total Positions	JVA No:	Opening:	Closing:
Garapan Elementary School	Classroom Teacher • Elementary Education (4th – 6th Grade)	1	PSS-2015-143	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
William S. Reyes Elementary School	Classroom Teacher • Elementary Education (1st and 2nd Grade)	2	PSS-2015-142	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher • Elementary Education (3rd Grade)	1	PSS-2015-137	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Chacha Oceanview Middle School	Classroom Teacher (ReAnnouncement) • Social Studies (World Geography/Ancient History)	1	PSS-2015-140	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School	Classroom Teacher • Mathematics (Algebra I & II/Geometry)	1	PSS-2015-148	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher • English (10th and 11th Grade)	1	PSS-2015-161	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
	Classroom Teacher • Social Studies (World/U.S. History)	1	PSS-2015-161	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher • Language Arts (10th and 12th Grade)	2	PSS-2015-138	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
	Classroom Teacher • Mathematics (Geometry)	1	PSS-2015-138	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Tanapag Middle School	Classroom Teacher • Language Arts (Fine Arts)	1	PSS-2015-147	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher • Cooperative Education,	1	PSS-2015-145	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
	Classroom Teacher • Language Arts (9th – 12th Grade)	1	PSS-2015-145	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015
	Classroom Teacher • Mathematics (Algebra I & II/Geometry)	1	PSS-2015-145	April 10, 2015	April 24, 2015

Classroom Teachers Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher Degree. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST-Pre-Professional Skills Tests) & Pass appropriate PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test. Must have a valid CNMI Basic I Teaching Certificate or higher.

For all other vacancies, please view the specific Job Vacancy Announcements as posted on the PSS Website at <http://www.cnmipss.org/jva/>.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open auditions for new FOA production

Friends of the Arts is announcing auditions for its production of *Cafe Murders*. This is audience interactive. Dinner theatre production will be presented in late May. The auditions will be held this Wednesday, April 15, from 6pm to 8pm at the MHS Dolphin Theatre. Materials for the auditions will be provided on site. Contact [flgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:flgibson@yahoo.com) with your questions. (FOA)

‘Negotiating to Win’ workshop on April 21

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold a three-hour workshop focusing on gaining the skills, insights and competencies required in sales negotiations in various situations. Attorney Cathy Cachero of Marianas Legal Strategy Group will present different styles of negotiating and how to find the style that works best for you. Hans Mickelson, CNMI Sales, Marketing, Wireless, & Roaming Manager of IT&E will discuss overcoming objections and getting the deal closed. The seminar will be held from 9am to noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 in the Chamber conference room (Suite 315 Marianas Business Plaza). Registration for the seminar is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Call 234-7150 or e-mail [coordinator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:coordinator@saipanchamber.com) to reserve your attendance. Registration fee for Chamber members is \$25; (\$35 for non-Chamber members). Seating is limited to the first 40 paid attendees. (SCC)

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 1st FLOOR CNMI PSS CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, BWUGHOS STREET, SUSUPE. For more information please call Tel # (670) 237-3059/52/31/79, or send an email to [psshr@cnmipss.org](mailto:psshr@cnmipss.org). You may download applications and forms online at <http://www.cnmipss.org> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.



# Tagabuel is Carolinian Affairs Office chief

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Supporters, family members, and the Carolinian community of Saipan attended the swearing in of John Tagabuel as executive director for Carolinian Affairs Office at the Carolinian Ut last Thursday evening.

Tagabuel became the official executive director for CAO after Gov. Eloy S. Inos swore him into office. Joining Inos was Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his wife Diann T. Torres. Tagabuel was escorted by his wife Michelle.

In his remarks, Tagabuel said he will work "with our Carolinian elders and traditional chiefs in enhancing and continuing the preservation of our Carolinian language, for it is known that language is the umbilical cord of our arts and culture."

"We, the Refalawaasch, are very proud people of our cultural heritage. Our unique heritage is valued through our language, customs, and traditions that we continue to embrace in our daily lives," he added.

Tagabuel said he would continue with the present CAO programs and introduce newer programs that will benefit and improve

Carolinian people's lives.

"Social networking will be implemented. This office will be organized and prepared in connecting people with needs such as employment, assistance, welfare benefits, and educational programs. I will also be looking into bringing back after-school programs,

so our children can come and continue to learn about our way of life," he said.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) congratulated Tagabuel on his appointment and challenged his fellow lawmakers and the Inos administration to support CAO and the Indigenous Affairs Office on Saipan.

Inos promised to support the CAO. "It is about time that help be provided to the CAO. I will offer my help and always know that we will always do our best and bring our Carolinian brothers and sisters together," Inos said.

Tourists and community members later joined in a small dinner with live entertainment.



From left to right: John Tagabuel's wife Michelle, John Tagabuel, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and his wife Diann T. Torres during Tagabuel's swearing in as Carolinian Affairs Office chief last Thursday at the Carolinian Ut in Garapan.

JAYSON CAMACHO

## Class of '94 offers 2 Knight scholarships

The Mount Carmel Class of 1994 is offering two scholarships for school year 2015-2016.

Dubbed the "94 Scholarship," any student who is enrolled as a junior at any school in the CNMI for this school year, 2014-2015, is eligible to apply by answering the question, "What Makes You THE ONE?"

Essays must be an original piece in written, audio or video format. Applicants must also have cumulative scores of 87 percent or higher; or a grade point average of 3.0 or higher; and submit a completed application form. Only electronic submissions of the essays and application forms will be accepted at mcsclassof1994@gmail.com.

According to class president Manny Ramon, the intent of the award is to encourage more students to experience the excellent academic and Catholic education offered at MCS.

"Our senior year is one of the most memorable times as a teenager and I'm hoping two students will also develop a sense of pride of being a MCS Knight as they

complete their senior year."

Fellow alumKnight Richard Santos adds, "We are pleased to offer this opportunity to two students for their final year at MCS. I know that I look back at my education with fond memories."

"This is a great gesture. Thank you to the 1994 AlumKnights for their continued support of their alma mater," said Galvin Deleon Guerrero, MCS president.

Essays will be based on creativity, commitment to service, leadership, and sense of purpose. A written essay must be at least 1,994, but not more than, 2,250 words. An audio or video essay must be recorded, between 5 and 9.4 minutes, and submitted via YouTube link.

The awardees will each receive \$1,994 toward their school tuition. Other costs associated with enrolling and graduating are not included. Applications are due by Thursday, April 30, 2015, 11:59pm Chamorro Standard Time.

General questions on the application and scholarship may be submitted via email to mcsclassof1994@gmail.com. (PR)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-017

Opening Date: Monday, April 06, 2015  
Closing Date: Friday, April 17, 2015

### Assistant Engineer: Electrical (Rota Power Plant)

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the section manager or his/her designee. As assigned, supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and oversees scheduled maintenance activities and small engineering studies to ensure adherence with specifications and standards. Monitors and inspects equipment for performance measures; performs preventative maintenance and assists with mechanical or electrical work; assists with the installation of equipment and related components; and gathers and prepares required hardware and tools. Performs engineering inspections; performs troubleshooting; researches methods and evaluates alternatives for improved efficiencies; and analyzes and recommends corrective measures. Collects and maintains operational data and records; prepares reports, statistics, design calculations, and engineering drawings.

Reviews and evaluates vendor proposals; responds to customer inquiries and information requests; Monitors and inventories equipment and supplies; provides recommendations for replacement or procurement of required resources. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION :** Rota Power Plant, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY :** \$27,456.00 to \$37,066.00 per annum  
**POSITIONS :** One (1)  
**CONTRACT :** Not Contracted.

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Customer service principles; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Coordinating and overseeing maintenance activities and engineering studies; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing inspections, survey work and collecting and reporting related data; Assisting with mechanical and electrical work and installations; Gathering, organizing, analyzing and evaluating technical data; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Providing critical thinking in analyzing and developing solutions; Providing customer assistance; Researching service or project status and providing feedback; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Preparing technical reports, drawings, statistics, and related engineering documents; Applying safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and supplies inventory and making replacement recommendations; Reviewing and evaluating vendor proposals; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-018

Opening Date: Monday, April 06, 2015  
Closing Date: Friday, April 17, 2015

### Engineering Technician, Senior

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the section manager or his/her designee. Utilizing Computer Aided Design and other technical systems, prepares plans, profiles, sketches, as-built drawings and reports in accordance with established standards. Conducts field survey work; collects data and assists in providing staking sheets including cost, materials and labor estimates for services or projects; monitors and verifies project materials used and adherence with specifications. Performs project and site works inspections; reviews and reports water usage information; analyzes and reports damaged equipment information; works with contractor and manufacturers regarding warranty coverage. Conducts field inventories of equipment and maintains data related to inventory; prepares requisition vouchers for approval; recommends procurement of required materials; tracks procurement documents. Provides customer assistance and troubleshooting of issues which may include: pressure fluctuation research; addressing concerns related to encroachment and right-of-way; verifying application status; and restoring water service. Conducts research and verifies information for customers. Analyzes data and documentation; creates and maintains system information in databases; prepares activity reports for management. Performs specialized support and routine technical activities related to engineering operations. As assigned, serves as a lead worker making work assignments and monitoring the completion of work by others. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION :** Saipan, Water & Wastewater Engineering Section Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY :** \$22,865.00 to \$30,867.00 per annum  
**POSITIONS :** One (1)  
**CONTRACT :** Not Contracted.

**Minimum Requirements:** Associate's Degree in Engineering Technology or directly related field and two years of general engineering support experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Surveying methods and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Customer service principles; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Prioritizing, assigning and monitoring the completion of work by others; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, maps and related technical documentation; Performing inspections, survey work and collecting and reporting related data; Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Providing critical thinking in analyzing and developing solutions; Conducting and monitoring field inventories and equipment; Providing customer assistance; Researching service or project status and providing feedback; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; Preparing technical reports, drawings and related documents used in assigned area of responsibility; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.



# 133 join Autism Society's Hot Dog Walk

The Hot Dog Walk this year sets another record high of 133 folks coming out for Autism! We, the Autism Society of the CNMI, appreciate the community coming out to walk with us to meet our community of families with members who have autism. We also appreciate the fellowship over hot dogs!

Folks from all over the island came out even though it was gloomy and wet. Despite all the other activities on island and the relief drives for Chuuk and Yap because of Typhoon Maysak, there were still enough folks who came out for autism because they care. Thank you to everyone who came out and took time to walk and meet our community.

Special thanks to Saipan Mayor David Apatang for his donations of hot dogs, buns, and water. Thank you also to Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres and his lovely family for coming out and enjoying the day with us. Big thanks to Reps. Ed Probst and family, BJ Attao and family, and Edmund Villagomez for your support. And how could we forget our senators that come out as well, Sixto Igisomar and Tere-sita Santos. It is important that our leaders are with us. Thank you all for your time, support and presence.

Autism affects our ability to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A total of 133 folks came out to support the Autism Society of the CNMI's annual Hot Dog Walk.

communicate and socialize, and 1 out of 68 children in America have a form of Autism Spectrum Disorder. It also affects populations all over the world. Autism does not discriminate nor does

it care about socioeconomics or religion. The statistics from other countries reflect the same trends that the U.S. Center for Disease Control report. The numbers are still rising!

With that said, please do not forget to get your \$25 ticket to support ASCNMI in its biggest event on Saturday, May 2, 2015, for Quiz Nite IV! Come out, eat dinner with us, get your

team together, and let us see who can correctly answer the most number of trivia questions to win first, second, or third place trophies! There will also be cash prizes for the first three

finishers, not to mention bragging rights for a year! Please call (670) 783-6378 for tickets! Thank you again CNMI for all the support last Saturday! See you on May 2! (ASCNMI)



## NMC SUPPORTERS

Bridge Capital vice president/ chief operating officer Jody Jordahl, second from left, and Bridge Capital staff Reneacia San Nicholas, second from right, present a \$500 donation to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NMC Foundation Golf tournament planning committee members Christina Cruz, far left, and Les Ogumorro, far right. For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu) or call 234-5498 ext. 6764/ 6840.



Dickerson and Quinn Saipan sales manager Marilyn Marron, second from right, presents a \$1,000 check to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NMC Foundation Golf tournament planning committee members.

Staff and management of The Shack pose with members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NMC Foundation Golf tournament planning committee. The Shack is donating \$600 worth of gift certificates to be given out as prizes at the tournament.



# IT&E, Saipan Paddling Club adopt two pavilions

IT&E, in partnership with the Saipan Paddling Club through the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Adopt-A-Beach program, repainted and beautified two of the three Kilili Beach pavilions located across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The pavilions adopted by these groups were the structures on the south end and north end as the pavilion in the center has already been adopted by another group.

A total of 61 volunteers consisting of both the Saipan Paddling Club and IT&E staff and families came together early Saturday morning to clean up and repaint the two Kilili Beach pavilions. With a few paintbrushes, some paint, and willing hands, these groups were able to complete the painting and even picked up trash in the area.

Justin Andrew, Saipan Paddling Club president, said he



The north pavilion in front of the Kilili Beach gets a facelift.

was humbled by the show of support from both groups.

Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director of Customer Operations and a Saipan Paddling Club member, said he is proud to be a part of both groups who truly ad-

vocate for environmental cleanliness and protection.

The project could not have been successful without the support and materials provided by BECQ. IT&E wanted to expand their commitment to the commu-

nity in addition to the Adopt-a-Beach Program by participating in the Adopt-a-Pavilion.

The beautification project was completed by midday just in time for a nice barbecue picnic for lunch. *(IT&E)*



From left, Justin Andrew, Saipan Paddling Club president, Jihan Buni-ag, and Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director of Customer Operations, join the Adopt-a-Pavilion activity last Saturday.



The south pavilion at the Kilili Beach is repainted and cleaned up.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

#### Position: International Cooks (25)

Qualifications: 2 years experience as a cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be flexible to work a varied schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Demi Chef (3)

Qualifications: 4 years work experience in a high volume restaurant or hotel as a Demi Chef. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards are essential. Proven track of food preparation, presentation and preservation knowledge is an essential. Must be a dedicated team player with the ability to work in a multicultural environment. Willing to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Sous Chef (1)

Qualifications: 5 years previous kitchen management/supervisory experience is required preferably from a large volume restaurant or hotel. Must have understanding and knowledge of safety, sanitation and food handling procedures. Able to work in a team environment; must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Committed to quality service and food and beverage knowledge. Ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Electrician (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience in this field is required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: General Maintenance Worker (2)

Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a Handyman is required and preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Possession of a driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Front Desk Manager (1)

Qualifications: Must have a minimum of three (3) years progressive experience in Front Desk supervisory level required preferably from a high volume hotel. Strong communication skills both oral and written and demonstrated leadership abilities are essential. Must be able to analyze data and make decision based on prior experience and knowledge of circumstances to prepare daily and weekly forecasts of expected arrivals and departures. Must have an energetic and dynamic personality and able to multitask. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Guest Relations Agent (1)

Qualifications: High School Graduate or equivalent. 1 year previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume or full service hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multi-task and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required.

#### Position: Electrician (1)

Qualifications: 2 years experience as electrician in commercial, industrial and residential building electrical works is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Carpenter (1)

Qualifications: 2 years carpentry experience required. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

#### Position: Carpenter - Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: 3 years work experience in this field in a supervisor level is required. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry positions. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

#### Position: A/C Refrigeration Mechanic (1)

Qualifications: 4 years experience in this field is required. Must be able to read electrical wiring diagrams, and control diagrams. Must be able to troubleshoot refrigeration equipment. Must be able to obtain and maintain required certification in this field. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is April 16, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-019

Opening Date: April 14, 2015

Closing Date: April 28, 2015

#### Deputy Director for Electric Systems

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Oversees and directs the implementation of internal operations and programs of designated department; provides strategic planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluation of programs, projects, processes, systems, standards, and/or services; prioritizes projects and initiatives in alignment with organizational objectives; ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Provides oversight and operational direction to achieve departmental goals, objectives, and strategic vision; develops and implements policy; evaluates operational effectiveness and oversees the implementation of process and quality improvements and the optimization of resources. Serves as an organizational and departmental representative advising and consulting with CUC management, departments, Boards, various agencies and/or other organizations. Develops short and long term goals, objectives, and strategic plans; oversees and/or negotiates contracts; provides and presents communications and updates on department activities, positions and status. Develops, administers and oversees assigned department or division budget. Reviews financial statements, monitors and approves expenditures and ensures compliance. Prepares a variety of management reports. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION :** Executive Director's Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY :** \$71,689.00 per annum to \$134,364.00 per annum.  
**CONTRACT :** Two (2) Year Contract.  
**POSITION(S) :** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and 8 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years in leadership experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Utility service administration principles and practices; Advanced principles and practices in assigned area of responsibility; Program development and administration principles and practices; Policy and procedure development practices; Financial management and budgeting principles; Forecasting and planning principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. Human Resource performance management. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, and evaluating subordinates; Delegating and assigning priorities; Developing and directing department functions, programs and initiatives; Providing short and long range planning and strategy; Planning for and allocating resources; Developing and administering budgets; Monitoring operations and enforcing policies and quality standards; Negotiating and building consensus; Ensuring regulatory compliance; Monitoring and overseeing contract administration; Researching, providing and presenting reports, findings and recommendations; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adali

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## 150 years later, Civil War's lessons are not all learned

At least 620,000 American soldiers died during the four years of the Civil War, succumbing to bullets, illness and the elements in a fight not against an external threat but over the nation's soul. By far the deadliest conflict fought on U.S. soil, the war came to a symbolic end 150 years ago Thursday with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. (The war sputtered on for a few more months as recalcitrant Southern units slowly gave up.)

The nation still bears scars from those horrendous days, in which more American soldiers were killed than in World Wars I and II combined. There were many reasons for the war, including the Southern states' belief that they could leave the Union unilaterally—a notion incoming President Abraham Lincoln rejected. But the central issue was slavery, which drove the Southern economy (and enriched more than a few Northerners in the financing and shipping worlds). Although the Union victory ended the "peculiar institution" that had 4 million people in chains at the start of the war, true racial equality remains elusive to this day.

But the nation has changed in many ways. The 13th, 14th and 15th "Reconstruction Amendments" collectively ended slavery, guaranteed equal protection under the law and allowed all men to vote regardless of race or former slave status. One of the subtler, but nevertheless important, changes had to do with the nation's perception of itself. As historian James McPherson has pointed out, before the Civil War the United States was referred to in the plural—"the United States are a Republic." But after the war, the United States became singular—the United States is—acknowledging that the nation was now more than the sum of its parts.

It is good, and right, to look at the narrative arc of our nation's history to give some context to our current divides. Although today's controversies are far less threatening to the national fabric than was slavery, we are living through an era of stark and coarse political dialogue weighted by race, concepts of the proper role and size of government, economic disparity and, perniciously, a resurgence of efforts to disenfranchise non-white voters.

That brings to mind part of Lincoln's final public address, two days after Lee surrendered, as the president tried to focus the nation's attention forward, toward reconstruction: "Unlike a case of a war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man. We simply must begin with, and mould from, disorganized and discordant elements." A century and a half later, we're still molding.

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## Have we become a nation of emotional lightweights?

"Can you believe how cold it was this winter? It was so bad that I had to increase my antidepressants." "I think I'm going to have to do that too." I recently overheard this conversation while dining at a restaurant and sat there in partial disbelief—but then realized I was not surprised. I hear this type of talk often, and it makes me wonder: Have we become a nation of emotional lightweights—wimps even?

As a nation, we've turned toward meds as the solution for emotional pain. According to a 2011 study by the National Center for Health Statistics, the rate of antidepressant use by teenagers and adults jumped almost 400 percent between 1988 and 1994, and that trend continued between 2005 and 2008, with 1 in 10 Americans using an antidepressant medication. Among women in their 40s and 50s, the number is even higher at 1 in 4. Antidepressants are now the third most prescribed class of medications in the United States.

Do so many people really need them? An April 2013 study in the journal *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics* found that nearly two-thirds of the 5,000 people studied did not meet the diagnostic criteria of depression, despite receiving this diagnosis and taking antidepressants because of it. A 400 percent jump in antidepressant use would suggest that rates of depression increased by this amount in just a decade, yet this is doubtful.

Why don't more of us work through powerful emotions, attempt to understand them and allow them to serve as an impetus for growth and change? Because most are not taught how to sit with emotions. Instead they distance themselves, using medications to numb them.

The anecdote I shared about the two people in the restaurant illustrates the growing refusal to explore real emotions that humanize us, and the rise of a quick-fix, reach-for-medication mindset—the same mindset that weakens most who adopt it.

I'm not against antidepressants. For those who truly need them, they can be lifesaving. Extensive research shows they stabilize both mood and emotions. I've seen many patients lifted from the dark despair of depression with the help of medication and go on to have healthy and fulfilling lives. When diagnostic criteria are met, then

By JONATHAN ALPERT  
Chicago Tribune

Jonathan Alpert is a Manhattan psychotherapist and author of *Be Fearless: Change Your Life in 28 Days*. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.



medication is a viable treatment option, along with therapy.

What I don't agree with is the tendency to reach for medication for the equivalent of a psychological sniffle or for simply feeling down. Just as we wouldn't take morphine for a paper cut, we shouldn't jump to antidepressants to treat everyday stress, mild depression or anxiety. Yet patients are quick to ask for them and doctors quick to give them—sometimes after mere minutes of talking to patients.

Simply put: Difficult emotions have a bad reputation. In many cases, feelings of sadness, envy, jealousy, anger, frustration, fear and anxiety are exactly what we need to grow stronger, find a sense of purpose and ultimately discover happiness and success.

Like a reaction to touching a hot stove, painful emotions urge us to act. Anger, for instance, can energize and mobilize us. As the movie "Selma" reminded us, the civil rights movement of the 1960s stemmed from outrage. People had had enough, and they wanted a change. This anger mobilized and united the masses and provided them remarkable courage.

Sadness is one of the emotions people are most inclined to medicate. But, with the exception of chronic depression, sadness won't interfere dramatically with your daily functioning—especially if you work through it. It's what allows you to process difficult events. After the death of a loved one, for example, sadness is an expression of your love.

Finally, fear and anxiety, when not crippling to one's daily functioning, keep us alive. Fear activates our fight-or-flight response in the face of danger or a threat. People who remain alert to possible dangers learn how to deal with them or avoid them altogether, whereas those who aren't aware of them are at greater risk of running into trouble. The ubiquitous post-9/11 slogan of "If you see something, say something" taps into the benefits of our inherently fearful nature and, as a result, we remain vigilant about what could possibly go wrong. Feeling fear can be beneficial.

Embracing emotional pain can lead all of us to inspiration, growth, clarity of mind, strength, success and the ability to live. Ultimately, it builds character.

Answers aren't always found in a pill.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Time to put the brakes on being busy

The small kid in the bunny suit was deeply engrossed in an incessantly beeping tablet game when her mother asked her to pass the box of Cheerios to the cashier.

I was standing behind their cart with The National Enquirer, which was absorbing all my attention, until I heard the little girl reply in the kind of modulated tone usually associated with prime-time television news anchors, "I can't help, Mom. Can't you see I'm very busy?"

The mother and I made spontaneous eye contact. She automatically did the shoulder shrug, communicating, "Kids these days, huh?" and I smiled and nodded, silently responding, "Just imagine!"

But I also made a resolution: I'm going to banish the expression "I'm very busy" from my vocabulary.

If a 6-year-old in a bunny suit feels she can claim that her demanding schedule doesn't allow her to participate in the lowly duties associated with shopping, then everybody is "very busy."

I'm taking that kid-on-the-tablet moment as a sign that we've gone too far in terms of using "I'm very busy" as a "Get Out Of Being Polite/Considerate/Attentive Free!" card.

In America, when somebody asks us "How are you?" we now yell, as if in a chorus "Busy! I'm so busy, you wouldn't believe it. I'm not available to talk to you, for example."

Nobody says "Fine. You?" anymore, because of how everybody is bustling. They're already hustled down the street as you've said "Hello."

During the early '80s, our culture decided that the opposite of the word "occupied" wasn't "relaxed" but "vacant"—as if time were

space. Maybe that's because people started using day-planners to map out every hour. Those day-planners made us feel like we had to fill each corner with the activity-equivalent of knickknacks in order to appear to have a life with no empty spaces.

We were counseled to manage our time instead of enjoy it. We organized our days into discrete productive units, checking off lists of tasks accomplished and goals met as if we had to prove ourselves to a cosmic parking lot attendant who would validate our life's ticket.

Not only was time like space, time was money: We became increasingly complicit in the idea the most important people had the least time to spend on the routines of ordinary life.

We made ourselves feel significant by believing that the busier we became, the more significant we were; the longer our to-do lists were, the more in-demand we were.

When was the last time, when you asked anybody what he or she were doing, was the answer "Not much," or even "Nothing"?

That would be unnerving, wouldn't it? Wouldn't you get suspicious? Who's up to nothing? You would immediately start to think that person was up to something.

The only people who say "nothing" when asked what they're up to are mastermind criminals, international spies and serial killers. You'd be tempted to call the FBI to look for duct-taped bodies in the basement or enriched uranium in the garage.

To be at the mercy of one's schedule is no better than being at the mercy of one's appetites, and it's not all that different: Despite protests to the contrary, we eat and schedule what we want, what we

who want to see the financial rewards of the entire marijuana industry, so do we ignore the majority to serve a few? Those who only want medical use legalized need to re-think what they are asking because it is a selfish and narrow-minded approach, driven simply by the fear of getting medical use legal because they think it is an easier sale but what about the adverse effects on the rest of society that will still exist and even escalate? Medical use may relieve some personal pain but it will also create headaches and more challenges for control that will have a ripple effect throughout society.

Our CNMI leaders, and not just you senators, really need to start thinking more outside-the-box and stop making us the very last to do what everyone else in America has already stopped doing for something better. In other words, medical use alone has already been proven too difficult to control so medical use alone will only serve to keep us behind the times and late when it comes to keeping up with the rest of American society socially and economically. Give all of us and our children a chance to live the American dream and help the sick at the same time!

**Ambrose M Bennett**

*Kagman, Saipan*

## Give me my medical marijuana

The verdict is in: The sick and suffering want medical marijuana so they will be able to find comfort in treating themselves of pain and serious medical conditions. They have overwhelmingly made this clear in the Senate medical marijuana bill public hearings that were held on Rota and last Friday at the Saipan Multi-Purpose Center. Even recreational marijuana advocates stamped their support for the MMJ bill as well as family members of the sick. The patients stated that they continue to treat themselves illegally with medical marijuana as they are more worried about their health and wellbeing as opposed to the legal consequences. They have put their health above law and are not afraid to do so. So the big question for our elected leaders and the CNMI people is: Do the sick and suffering people of the CNMI have to face prosecution, penalties, or discrimination just to treat themselves to save their own lives?

As a compassionate society, we are obligated to taking care of those who are sick and suffering, especially when we have an opportunity to do so. With medical marijuana, we can do just that. Let us give them their right to life. To live, laugh, and love. Let us give them their second chance to live again.

Please come and support the Senate medical marijuana public hearing tonight at the Senate chambers at 6pm so we can do what we as a compassionate society are obligated to do for our loved ones, family members and friends. Thank you and *biba* Marianas!

**Gerry Palacios Hemley**

*Cannabis advocate/supporter of medical marijuana  
Garapan, Saipan*

**By GINA BARRECA**  
The Hartford Courant

*Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.*



believe we need and what we hope will satisfy us. It's not out of our hands; it's under our control.

So from now on, if someone asks how I am, I'll say "I'm looking forward to summer," or "I'm just about to have a slice of anchovy pizza, so life couldn't be better" or something else specific and cheerful.

I will stop saying that I'm "buried with work," "up to my neck in deadlines" or "swamped." I will stop saying my days are "insane" "nuts" or "crazy busy"; I will, in fact, dismiss any adjectival phrase that reflects on my mental health or anyone else's.

I'll put a stop to what my friend Meg Pearson points out is the most common of humble-brags and I'll keep in mind what another pal, Helen Lukash, reminded me was Socrates caveat: "Beware the barrenness of a busy life."

Here's my new motto: Never be too occupied to be able to help the lady asking for the Cheerios.

## Voices of the common people

Thank you, Mary Tomokane. Thank you, Bo Palacios. Thank you, students of the Public School System. Thank you, Office of Aging employees. Thank you, public library employees. Thank you, John S. Del Rosario Jr. Thank you, Nick Sablan. Thank you, Ed Peter. Thank you, Winnie Atalig and the countless others who speak out for better governance. We are all advocate for "Just do the right thing." People in the CNMI are tired of the nonsense that plagues our islands. This disease is of a very strong strength but it is a curable one. Let's not lose hope, the roof is on fire and we don't have any water! The CNMI needs the common person speak up and be the watchdog on everything that is wrong in the CNMI. Let the people stamp out the fire of corruption and drugs in the work place. Continue to speak up, my brothers and sisters.

**Manuel Alvarez**  
*Garapan, Saipan*

## Pardon or respond, our dear governor! Please!

On March 4, 2015, I addressed you with my pardon request on behalf of my daughter. I had to do it by media after my many attempts to see you by visiting your office yielded no results. I understand how big the responsibilities are on your shoulders and that your time is precious and the community's needs come first. You are a person of big heart and highest moral standards and work hard to lead our CNMI in the right direction. I admire you as governor. I believe in your thoughtfulness, professionalism and integrity.

My daughter Carmelita is still in prison and remains deprived of her five children. She has gotten no hope yet to join them in the near future. Each of my visits to her causes me a lot of pain because I cannot tell her anything negative or positive on the prospects of her getting freed. I am in the same trouble when I see my nephews' asking eyes.

Definiteness is better than indefiniteness because indefiniteness is so torturous! I bow my grey head deeply and ask you for a decision on pardoning or not pardoning my daughter. Give us a definite response, please!

May Almighty God bless you! My family and I pray that you will be healthy and strong!

**Teddy Guiao**  
*Lower Navy Hill, Saipan*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### I am for medical marijuana being legal...

But medical use alone is filled with even more challenges than full legalization because it does nothing to stop or lower the marijuana crime rate. We are already learning that medical use alone is creating new marijuana crimes on top of the old ones, which is why states are now starting to forego medical use only and instituting full legalization of marijuana like Colorado and Washington. (Alaska, Oregon and Washington D.C. have just joined the ranks of full legalization and eight more states have lined up for full legalization to avoid the pitfalls of medical use only.) Legalization is not just about helping sick people but about better controls, addressing the concerns of everyone and the revenues that can be earned from this new industry.

It is also a fact that people want to vote on the issue and to do so they need to study marijuana use under legal conditions in our society before voting on a permanent law and there is no better way to study marijuana than to declare the moratorium period I proposed, which will allow citizens and the Legislature to get all the answers to questions and concerns about marijuana use and the products before drafting and voting on a final law. Laws also change when they go from one chamber to the other in our Legislature so why are we playing around with medical use only when we can study the entire marijuana industry, including the products, at the same time? We are literally setting ourselves up for double and triple unnecessary work and "oversight hearings" when and if this bill gets to the lower chamber.

Medical use alone also does nothing to change the way we handle marijuana use in our society as a whole and we will still have marijuana crimes and we will still be locking up people, especially our children, for a single marijuana cigarette so people can get pain medicine. Is that really fair? We will surely create more work for DPS and our White-Collar Crime Unit with citizens and tourist trying to get marijuana illegally. We must be more analytical and look at the big picture because ignoring the nuances in the bigger picture will definitely lead to mistakes. Have you thought about the fact that we will see all kinds of phony schemes and illnesses by locals and tourists to get marijuana—schemes that may even become organized crime as this is a billion-dollar industry we are flirting with so we better be more aware and address all the nuances.






Do you realize that some tourists are going to be manipulated and even ripped-off with marijuana related criminal schemes as if tourists are not suffering enough from criminals in the CNMI? Now we are going to set tourists up for even more theft and robberies related to marijuana, which will be a true and living example of our ignorance of the nuances in medical use alone.

There are many people not in pain who can't get a prescription but need and want marijuana just to help them to cope or calm down and relax under stressed conditions, which can stop or prevent arguments and fights and even save a life. People want to socialize without having to drink hard liquor or cases of beer, and there are those

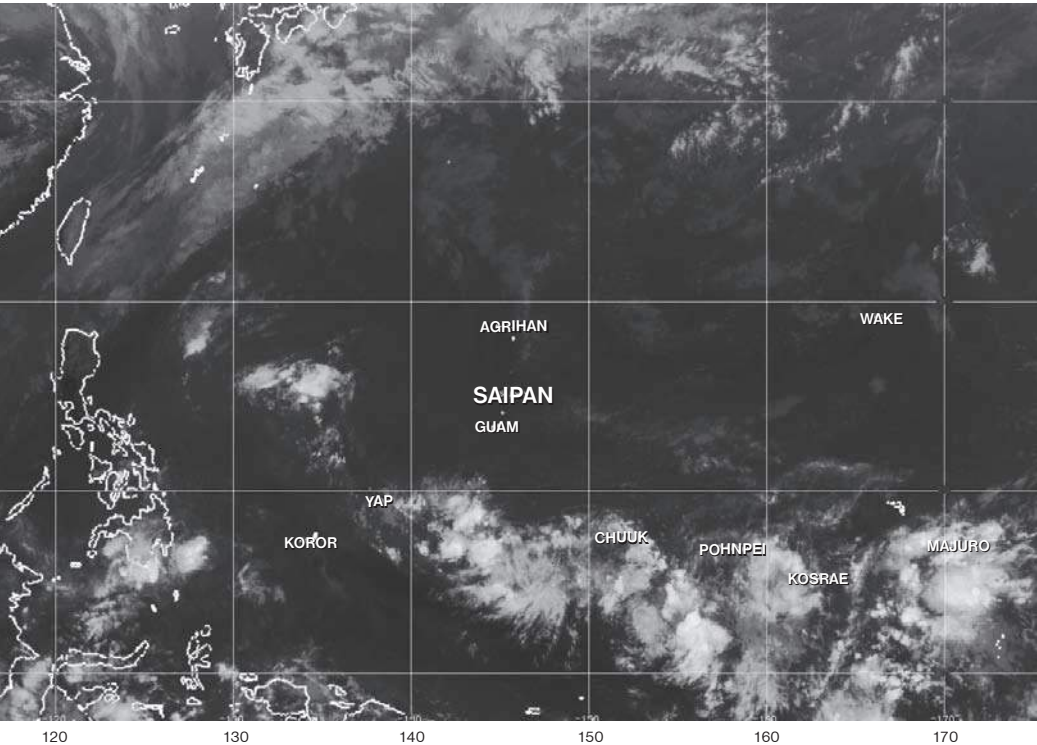


# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from 4N130E to 2N135E. Low-level convergence north of the trough is producing scattered showers to the southwest of Palau between 3N and 7N from 130E to 133E. Trade-wind convergence is producing an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Yap between 14N and 17N from 130E to 137E. A surface trough extends from 7N141E to a circulation located near 5N146E and continues to EQ160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found across Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 5N and 10N from 138E to 153E and between the equator and 7N from 153E to 162E. Another surface trough stretches from EQ172E to 6N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over portions of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 8N from 165E to 175E. A shear line remnant extends from 13N148E to 11N168E. Scattered showers can be found within 50 miles of the axis.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Sunny	▲72	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼43
Hong Kong	Showers	▲71	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼73
New York	Sunny	▲62	▼43
Osaka	Showers	▲60	▼47
Paris	Showers	▲63	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲61	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲55	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲69	▼42
Tokyo	Rain	▲57	▼46
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼44



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
4:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	2:03 AM	2:02A M
Wednesday	2:53 AM	3:02 AM
Thursday	3:43 AM	4:01 AM
Friday	4:32 AM	5:02 PM
Saturday	5:22 AM	6:02 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						



# Business

## Mining in Haiti on hold amid uncertainty and opposition

**CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (AP)**—The 50-year-old man from the village scrambled up a grassy hill to ask the onsite manager of a U.S. mining company for work. Joseph Tony had heard VCS Mining Inc. was bringing jobs, along with paved roads and electricity, to this corner of rural northern Haiti. “Everybody is waiting,” he said.

But Williamcete Noel, the

only VCS employee in Haiti, had nothing to offer. Although the company received one of two gold mining permits in December 2012, the project known by the hill on which is located, Morne Bossa, was frozen two months later when Parliament imposed a moratorium on mining activity amid deep concerns about whether the country has the capacity to adequately regu-

late such a complex industry.

Mining had been seen as a potential new source of revenue and jobs for impoverished Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake devastated the capital in the south. Companies spent \$30 million prospecting, with the encouragement of a government eager to bring development to the coun-

tryside, where most people get by on subsistence farming and lack even basic services.

But the new era in mining that some had predicted remains out of reach because the Haiti has been unable to enact a revised mining law establishing such fundamental issues as the environmental regulations and

royalty revenues.

Now it’s too late for this government. The administration of President Michel Martelly, a musician who had little support in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies when he took office in May 2011, was unable to get the law completed and passed before Parliament was dissolved

in January. The prospects when a new government takes over next year are uncertain.

“Everything is being put on hold,” said Tucker Barrie, vice president of exploration for Majescor Resources Inc., a Canadian company that received the other production permit, for two concessions north of Morne Bossa.

### Dealing with your ‘space cadet’ boss

#### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of “Secrets to Winning at Office Politics.”

**Q** : We recently got a new manager who is totally disorganized. “Rick” will tell us to do something, then after we finish, he says that it was not at all what he wanted. Rick also forgets a lot of things after we talk about them. Our team is getting confused and discouraged. How do you work for someone who is a complete space cadet?

**A:** If your previous supervisor was a systematic, orderly type, then Rick’s leadership style is undoubtedly a huge adjustment. To get what you need from this scattered boss, you and your colleagues may now have to put much more effort into “managing up.”

As you have seen, disorganized managers frequently fail to convey expectations clearly. Because they think about results in general terms, they simply don’t consider many details. Then, when a project is complete, they are dismayed to discover that the finished product doesn’t match their mental picture.

To minimize these unpleasant surprises, try to extract Rick’s hidden assumptions at the beginning of a project. By asking reasonable questions, you may be able to explore his thinking and better define what he’s looking for. You might also propose some possibilities and see how he reacts.

At the start of any new activity, build in some feedback points to get Rick’s view of your progress. If he has an opportunity to approve plans, review drafts, evaluate prototypes, or provide input on key decisions, he is much more likely to be happy with the final result.

To compensate for Rick’s unreliable memory, put important meetings on his calendar, send friendly reminders about critical dates and follow up discussions with an email summarizing conclusions and agreements. While all this may sound like a lot of extra work, in the long run it will make your life much easier.

**Q:** During my years of teaching, I have frequently shared my classroom with other instructors. These collaborations have worked very well until now. Recently, I was asked to co-teach with a new employee who is still in her probationary period. Although “Ellen” is well-qualified, she seems to have trouble working collaboratively.

**Because our activities need to be coordinated, I always send Ellen a summary of my upcoming lesson plans. However, she never shares her plans with me and seems to resent my asking about them. She gets angry very quickly, so I try to avoid saying anything that might start a conflict.**

**I have tried to hide these issues from the students, but I’m sure they sense the tension. Should I talk to someone about this?**

**A:** Since your uncooperative colleague is still on probation, you need to share these observations with her supervisor. The probationary period allows management to evaluate new hires before making a final commitment to their employment. During this time, an unsuitable employee can usually be terminated without the normal disciplinary steps.

While I am not suggesting that you begin a campaign to get Ellen fired, I am suggesting that your feedback needs to be part of her ongoing probationary assessment. Simply provide the facts as you have observed them and leave any conclusions up to her boss. If others provide similar input, the final decision should be obvious.



In this March 31, 2015 photo, Joseph Tony walks on the hill on the Morne Bossa mining site in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.

## Corporate deal appetite hits 5-year high amid dollar rise

**LONDON (AP)**—The current wave of corporate takeovers and mergers is set to grow as the appetite for deals among global executives hits a five-year high in the wake of the strong dollar and low oil prices, a survey found Monday.

A striking 56 percent of global companies assessed say they intend to make acquisitions in the coming year, up from 40 percent in October,

consulting firm EY said in its half-yearly report on corporate deal-making. That’s the first time since 2010 that more than half of executives say they plan to make an acquisition in the next 12 months.

And the number of deals in the pipeline, EY noted, is up 19 percent from a year ago.

“2015 will see a surge of new entrants and companies returning to the M&A market

to generate future growth,” said Pip McCrostie, EY’s global head of mergers and acquisitions, or M&A.

Already in the first three months of 2015 the value of global mergers and acquisitions hit \$888 billion, the highest level for the period in at least five years, according to data provider Dealogic. The second quarter appears to have started strongly with energy

company Shell agreeing to take over Britain’s BG Group for \$70 billion, in what is the 9th largest M&A deal ever.

The EY survey identified the oil and gas industry as one sector that is likely to see more activity in the months ahead. When oil and gas prices are low, exploration for new resources becomes a riskier prospect, so energy companies tend to try to boost growth through acquisitions.

## Report gives US airlines lower marks across the board

**DALLAS (AP)**—Think flying is getting worse? A pair of university researchers who track the airline business say it’s a fact.

More flights are late, more bags are getting lost, and customers are lodging more complaints about U.S. airlines, government data shows. Dean Headley, a marketing professor at Wichita State and one of the co-authors of the annual report being released Monday, said passengers already know that air travel is getting worse. “We just got the numbers to prove it.”

Among the findings in the report:

**LATENESS:** The percentage of flights that arrived on time fell to 76.2 percent last year from 78.4 percent in 2013. Best: Hawaiian Airlines. Worst:

Envoy Air, which operates most American Eagle flights.

**LOST BAGS:** The rate of lost, stolen or delayed bags rose 13 percent in 2014. Best: Virgin America. Worst: Envoy. Airlines lose one bag for every 275 or so passengers, but at Envoy, the rate is one lost bag for every 110 passengers, according to government figures.

**OVERBOOKING:** The rate of passengers getting bumped from flights rose 3 percent. Best: Virgin America. Worst: a tie, between SkyWest and its ExpressJet subsidiary.

**COMPLAINTS:** Consumer complaints to the government jumped 22 percent in 2014. Best: Alaska Airlines. Worst: Frontier.

Regional carriers, which operate flights under names like

American Eagle, United Express and Delta Connection, tend to earn the worst marks. They fly smaller planes, so when airlines are forced to cut flights due to bad weather, they ground the regionals first to inconvenience fewer passengers.

But the picture was bleak at the four biggest U.S. airlines too. On-time performance fell and complaint rates rose at American, United, Delta and Southwest.

Headley said airlines performed better in the years after 2001, when travel demand fell and planes were less crowded. Airlines were also losing money. They returned to profitability when mergers reduced competition and the remaining airlines limited flights to keep fares up. The average plane

is now more than 80 percent full at most airlines, and many flights are oversold.

“They have put the same number of people in fewer airplanes,” Headley said in an interview. “Anytime the system ramps up, it goes haywire.”

Airlines are ordering new planes and making other investments that they promise will lead to better service. Many of the biggest improvements are targeted at the airlines’ most valued customers—those in first-class and business-class sections.

The annual report is now in its 25th year. Headley and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University professor Brent Bowen use information that the airlines submit to the U.S. Department of Transportation.



# Nation

## On Carter's first Asia trip as Pentagon chief, calm prevails

**HONOLULU (AP)**—No news is good news. That might have been the bumper sticker for Ash Carter's first tour of Asia as secretary of defense.

It was mostly quiet on the Eastern front. Carter consulted with Japanese and South Korean leaders, gave pep talks to American troops, stressed the U.S. military's stabilizing influence in the region and repeatedly remarked that compared to the Middle East, the Asia-Pacific is calm and on a prosperous track.

That's a welcome respite from crisis for a Pentagon chief not yet two months into his tenure.

It's also a reminder of why the Obama administration's much-advertised pivot to Asia, after more than a decade of all-consuming war in Iraq and Afghanistan, keeps getting overshadowed by rising towers of trouble in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere across the Middle East.

In Japan on Thursday, Carter told U.S. troops and their families at Yokota air base that if they open any newspaper, "what you see is the mess in the Middle East," whereas East Asia is "generally so peaceful and therefore so prosperous."

"If you think about it," he later told troops at Osan air base in South Korea, "the Middle East



**AP**  
In this Friday, April 10, 2015 photo, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter, right, shakes hands with his South Korean counterpart Han Min Koo upon his arrival at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.

is in the headlines all the time. But the reason this place isn't in the headlines is because you're ready anytime to deter conflict on the peninsula." He was alluding to the ever-present danger of North Korea reigniting war with the South, although the North of late has stirred up little trouble

and provoked no crises.

Carter practically laughed off the North's test-launching of two short-range ballistic missiles shortly before he arrived on the peninsula, where the missile threat is real and might one day be nuclear armed.

"If it's a welcoming message

to me, I'm flattered," he said.

The Asia trip, which Carter capped with a visit Saturday to U.S. Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii, was his second overseas venture since taking over in February for Chuck Hagel. His first was to Afghanistan and Kuwait.

On neither trip did he reveal much about his thinking on possible changes to U.S. defense policy. He has been publicly

cautious, saying relatively little to reporters—like a driver double-checking his mirrors and adjusting his seat before turning into traffic.

Carter was scheduled to return to Washington late Sunday.

The fact that Carter plans to return to Asia next month to attend an international security conference in Singapore and to visit India is evidence that he embraces President Barack Obama's view that the region is increasingly important to U.S. long-term national security and economic interests.

It also shows that Carter realizes the region's current calm could collapse, or at least be shaken, if North Korea were to lash out at South Korea or make new nuclear threats. China's pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea, which are disputed by Vietnam and other countries in the region, also is potential flash point.

## Clinton kicks off 2016 campaign online, heads next to Iowa

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Hillary Rodham Clinton jumped back into presidential politics on Sunday, making a much-awaited announcement she will again seek the White House with a promise to serve as the "champion" of everyday Americans.

Clinton opened her bid for the 2016 Democratic nomination by positioning herself as the heir to the diverse coalition of voters who elected her immediate predecessor and former campaign rival, President Barack Obama, as well as an appeal to those in her party still leery of her commitment to fighting income inequality.

And unlike eight years ago, when she ran as a candidate with a deep resume in Washington, Clinton and her personal history weren't the focus of the first message of her campaign. In the online video that kicked off her campaign, she made no mention of her time in the Senate and four years as secretary of state, or the prospect she could make history as the nation's first female president.

Instead, the video is collection of voters talking about their lives, their plans and aspirations for the future. Clinton doesn't appear until the very end.

"I'm getting ready to do something, too. I'm running for president," Clinton said. "Americans have fought their way back from tough economic times, but the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top.

"Every day Americans need a champion, and I want to be that champion, so you can do more than just get by. You can get ahead and stay ahead."

It's a message that also made an immediate play to win over the support of liberals in her party for whom economic inequality has become a defining issue. They remain skeptical of Clinton's close

ties to Wall Street and the centrist economic policies of the administration of her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Many had hoped Clinton would face a challenge from Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has said she will not run.

"It would do her well electorally to be firmly on the side of average working people who are working harder than ever and still not getting ahead," said economist Robert Reich, a former labor secretary during the Clinton administration who has known Hillary Clinton for nearly five decades.

## Saudi Arabia: No evidence its agents helped in 9/11 attacks

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Attorneys for Saudi Arabia say a judge should reject claims by families of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks that new evidence—including an interview with the man who became known as the "20th hijacker"—shows agents of the kingdom "directly and knowingly" helped the hijackers.

In papers filed in Manhattan federal court late Friday, the lawyers said there is no evidence Saudi Arabia supported or caused the attacks.

They urged a judge to dis-

miss the claims against Saudi Arabia, saying the lawyers "have had enough chances to make their case."

Saudi Arabia was among the countries, companies and organizations sued in 2002 and afterward by families who claimed they aided al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and other terrorist groups. The lawsuits sought billions of dollars in damages.

Lawyers for Saudi Arabia also urged the judge considering the merits of the civil litigation to disregard claims by al-Qaida

member Zacarias Moussaoui, who is serving a life prison sentence after pleading guilty in April 2005 to conspiring with the hijackers to kill Americans.

They called his comments to plaintiffs' lawyers last year "colorful but immaterial hearsay statements" from a convicted, mentally ill terrorist. Before jurors spared Moussaoui's life, a psychologist testified for the defense at death penalty proceedings that he had paranoid schizophrenia.

Moussaoui says it was a lie that Saudi Arabia cut ties with

al-Qaida and bin Laden in 1994.

Lawyers for 9/11 families cited Moussaoui's claims in saying they've unearthed "compelling" evidence that the Saudi government assisted the hijackers.

In papers filed Friday, the plaintiffs' lawyers said the efforts by Saudi Arabia to be dismissed from the litigation "rest on grave distortions of the record, implausible interpretations of the allegations, facts and evidence, and a refusal to afford plaintiffs the obvious inferences to which they are entitled."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### At Disney racecar attraction, Lamborghini crashes, kills 1

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—A Lamborghini that was part of an exotic car racing attraction at Walt Disney World crashed into a guardrail, killing a passenger and injuring the driver on Sunday, police said. The attraction lets racecar fans be drivers or passengers in luxurious cars such as Lamborghinis, Porsches or Ferraris. It wasn't immediately clear if the driver was a track employee or a customer. The driver was hospitalized with minor injuries. The passenger was a 36-year-old man from Davenport. Their names were not immediately released. The Lamborghini crashed when the driver lost control on the course at the Exotic Driving Experience, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, which was investigating.

#### Police: 3-year-old shoots, kills 1-year-old boy in Ohio home

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—A 3-year-old boy picked up an unattended gun inside a home and it went off, shooting a 1-year-old boy in the head and killing him Sunday afternoon, police said. Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams said investigators are trying to determine where the gun came

from. Emergency workers said the 1-year-old was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead. Full details about the shooting on the city's east side weren't released, but Williams said at least one adult was home when it happened. "It's a sad day for Cleveland," he told reporters outside the home. "This fascination that we have with handguns, not just in this city but in this country, has to stop. This is a senseless loss of life."

#### Students suspended after charges in beach sex assault

**PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—Two Alabama college students have been suspended after authorities discovered a cellphone video that allegedly shows them sexually assaulting a woman at a Florida beach while a large crowd of spring-break revelers watches. Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen described the video as "very, very graphic" and called it the "most disgusting, sickening thing" he had ever seen. He said the footage shows several men surrounding an incapacitated woman on a beach chair. The victim told authorities that she thought she had been drugged at the time, and she did not remember the incident well enough to report it. Both students attended Troy University.



# Asia

## China curbs some travel to Hong Kong to cool tensions

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Chinese authorities brought in curbs on travel to Hong Kong on Monday to cool tensions over the growing influx of mainland shoppers that's angering residents of the Asian financial hub.

The public security bureau in neighboring Shenzhen will stop issuing multiple visit passes to people who live in the border city and instead issue only once-a-week travel passes, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The move comes as anger simmers over the rising numbers of cross-border mainland Chinese travelers, who've been blamed for voracious buying of smartphones, cosmetics, medicine and luxury goods that distorts the local economy.

Chinese especially favor imported baby formula bought in Hong Kong over domestic brands after repeated food safety scares and because of the city's reputation for authentic goods.

Hong Kong activists held several protests earlier this year that erupted into chaos when protesters scuffled with the tourists.

The central government in Beijing has adjusted the travel



In this Sunday, April 12, 2015 photo, mainland Chinese tourists carry suitcases as they walk at a shopping district in Hong Kong.

AP

and Hong Kong tourism's capability," the Xinhua report said.

Many cross-border shoppers often work for shadowy networks that organize the resale of the goods back in mainland China for a profit, in what's known as parallel trading. Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, said the policy is "directed against professional goods smugglers" and added that authorities would introduce further measures to target such traders based in Hong Kong.

Leung said 4.6 million mainland Chinese visited Hong Kong more than once a week last year. That's a tenth of the 47.3 million mainlanders who visited in 2014, up 16 percent from the year before. They are estimated to be responsible for a third of retail sales in Hong Kong, a city of 7.1 million that's been a specially administered Chinese region since 1997.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Thai police suspect Muslim rebels behind southern killings

**HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)**—Police suspect Muslim separatists were behind six killings in Thailand's far south that have come as the country celebrates its traditional New Year. Two farmers were shot dead on their rubber plantation in Yala province on Monday, while four people in two neighboring houses were fatally shot Sunday night in Narathiwat province. More than 5,000 people have been killed in Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani provinces since an Islamic separatist insurgency erupted in 2004. Police are still investigating the latest attacks, but believe they were carried out by Muslim insurgents because intelligence indicated that there would be attacks on Buddhists during the New Year festival, known as Songkran. Thailand's three southernmost provinces are the only ones with Muslim majorities in the predominantly Buddhist country.

#### UN: Afghan ground fighting kills growing number of civilians

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—A report released by the U.N. mission in Afghanistan shows an 8 percent rise in the number of civilians killed or wounded as a result of ground battles

policy because, "alongside the unceasing growth of mainland residents traveling to Hong Kong and growing pressure on mainland and Hong Kong immigration ports, there's growing contradiction between visitor numbers to Hong Kong

between security forces and insurgents. The findings released Sunday reflect the movement of insurgents into built-up areas in the three months since NATO forces ended their combat mission. The report by the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan says ground fighting killed 136 civilians and wounded another 385 in the first three months of the year. It says ground fighting remains the leading cause of conflict-related death for women and children.

#### China tries former state oil boss on corruption charges

**BEIJING (AP)**—A top official who led China's biggest petroleum company and later was assigned to oversee state-owned companies went on trial Monday on charges of corruption and abuse of power. Defendant Jiang Jiemin is a former chairman of the state-run China National Petroleum Corp, CNPC, which has been the target of a sweeping graft investigation amid a larger anti-corruption campaign that has netted top officials and others. Jiang is charged with taking bribes, possessing a large number of assets from unidentified sources and abusing his position at a state-owned enterprise, Hanjiang Intermediate People's Court in Hubei province said on its microblog.

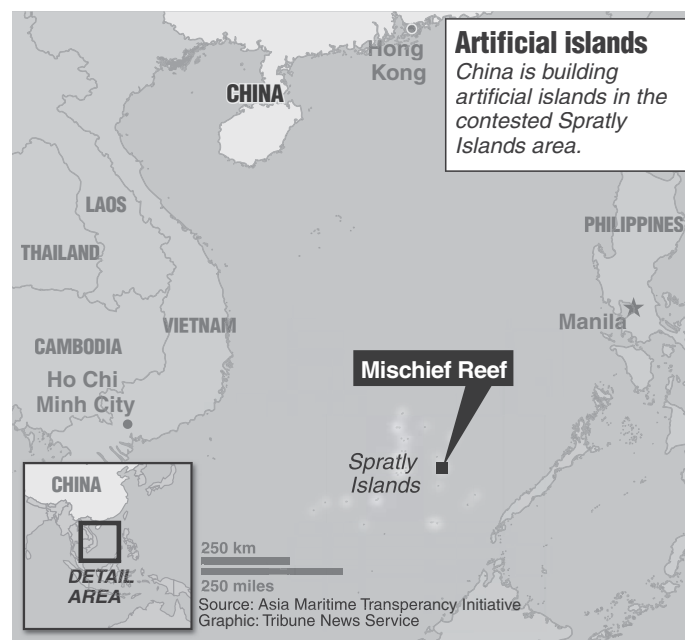
## China says it's a robust force for peace in South China Sea

**BEIJING (AP)**—China said Friday it only seeks peace in the South China Sea, rejecting comments by President Barack Obama that Beijing is using its muscle to intimidate neighbors in a region where U.S. officials say China also is aggressively creating artificial land to bolster its position.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China advocated talks to resolve tensions between rival claimants to the strategic waters and island groups that sit astride some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, rich fishing grounds and potentially huge mineral reserves.

"I think you will agree with me that China has been a robust force for the preservation and promotion of peace and stability in the South China Sea," Hua said.

Obama said Thursday that the U.S. is concerned that China is not abiding by international norms and is using its



"sheer size and muscle" to bully smaller claimants such as the Philippines and Vietnam.

"We think this can be solved diplomatically, but just because the Philippines or Vietnam are not as large as China doesn't mean that they can just be elbowed aside," Obama told reporters while on a visit

to Jamaica. Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also claim all or parts of the South China Sea.

In an apparent reference to the U.S., Hua said: "I think everybody can clearly see who has the biggest size and muscle in the world." She added that, "We hope the U.S. can ... genuinely play a positive,

constructive and responsible role in promoting peace and stability in the South China Sea and the region."

The U.S. has increasingly expressed concern about continuing Chinese construction that artificially adds land to the reefs and islands it controls in the region, projects documented by aerial photos and eyewitness accounts. U.S. military officials have said they could be aimed at hosting military facilities as part of an "aggressive" effort to exert sovereignty there.

Hua said Thursday that such work was mainly for peaceful civilian purposes such as aiding fishermen, but also served to "meet necessary demands" for defense. She also reiterated China's stance that its sovereignty over the area gives it the right to carry out whatever work it deems worthy, but that such activities are not directed at any third parties.

## Al-Qaida says US drones kill 2 leaders in Pakistan

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)**—U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan killed two leaders of al-Qaida's South Asia branch earlier this year, a spokesman for the militants said Sunday, confirming a major blow to the affiliate only months after its creation.

In an audio message, spokesman Usama Mahmood said a Jan. 5 drone strike in North Waziristan killed Ubaidullah, who was in charge of the group's Afghan affairs, while a

later strike killed deputy chief Raja Suleman. He said both had fought under aliases. His claim corresponds with the dates of previously reported U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan's tribal region near the Afghan border.

Mahmood said Suleman graduated from Islamabad's International Islamic University and that Ubaidullah was from Pakistan's central city of Multan.

Mahmood also lashed out at Pakistan over a military offen-

sive launched last summer in North Waziristan, along the Afghan border.

"This operation is being carried out under direct supervision of American forces, its leadership, and with their direct help through drones and jets," Mahmood said. "Pakistan's army is in fact just providing intelligence against the targets America wants to hit."

Mahmood said U.S. drone strikes had killed some 50 members of his group, known

as al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent. Pakistani officials had no immediate comment on the claims.

The CIA's drone program has killed al-Qaida leaders, Pakistani Taliban fighters and other militants hiding in its tribal regions, but has stoked anger across Pakistan over allegations of widespread civilian casualties. Since 2004, the U.S. has carried out some 400 suspected drone strikes in the country, according to the New America Foundation's International Security Program, which tracks the American campaign.



# World

## Turkey recalls ambassador over pope's Armenia genocide words

By NICOLE WINFIELD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Sunday marked the 100th anniversary of the slaughter of Armenians by calling the massacre by Ottoman Turks “the first genocide of the 20th century” and urging the international community to recognize it as such. Turkey immediately responded by recalling its ambassador and accusing Francis of spreading hatred and “unfounded claims.”

Francis issued the pronouncement during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the centenary that was attended by Armenian church leaders and President Serge Sarkisian, who praised the pope for calling a spade a spade and “delivering a powerful message to the international community.”

“The words of the leader of a church with 1 billion followers cannot but have a strong impact,” he told The Associated Press.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Turkey, however, denies a genocide took place. It has insisted that the toll has been inflated and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

Francis defended his words by saying it was his duty to honor the memory of the innocent men, women and children who were “senselessly” murdered by Ottoman Turks.

“Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it,” he said.

He said similar massacres are under way today against Christians who because of their faith are “publicly and ruthlessly put to death—decapitated, crucified, burned alive—or forced to leave their homeland,” a reference to the Islamic State group's assault against Christians in Iraq and Syria.

Francis called on the world community, heads of state and international organizations to recognize the truth of what transpired to prevent such “horrors” from repeating themselves, and to oppose all such crimes “without ceding to ambiguity or compromise.”

Turkey has fiercely lobbied to prevent countries, including the Holy See, from officially



AP  
Pope Francis, left, is greeted by the head of Armenia's Orthodox Church Karekin II, during an Armenian-Rite Mass on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Sunday, April 12, 2015.

recognizing the Armenian massacre as genocide and reacted strongly to Francis' declaration.

“The pope's statement, which is far from historic and legal truths, is unacceptable,” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu tweeted. “Religious positions are not places where

unfounded claims are made and hatred is stirred.”

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Vatican's envoy in Ankara, and then announced it was recalling its own ambassador to the Vatican for consultations.

In a statement, the ministry said the Turkish people would

not recognize the pope's statement “which is controversial in every aspect, which is based on prejudice, which distorts history and reduces the pains suffered in Anatolia under the conditions of the First World War to members of just one religion.”

It accused Francis of deviat-

ing from his message of peace and reconciliation during his November visit to Turkey.

Several European countries recognize the massacres as genocide, though Italy and the United States, for example, have avoided using the term officially given the importance they place on Turkey as an ally.

The Holy See, too, places great importance in its relationship with the moderate Muslim nation, especially as it demands that Muslim leaders condemn the Islamic State group slaughter of Christians.

But Francis' willingness to rile Ankara with his words showed once again that he has few qualms about taking diplomatic risks for issues close to his heart. And the massacre of Armenians is indeed close to the Vatican's heart given that Armenia is held up as the first Christian nation, dating from 301.

## Arms spending up globally, except in US, Western Europe

HELSINKI (AP)—World military spending was largely unchanged in 2014 as lower spending in the United States and Western Europe was matched by increases elsewhere, prompted by conflicts in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa, an arms watchdog said Monday.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said total global arms expenditure was down 0.4 percent at \$1.8 trillion.

American spending was reduced by 6.5 percent as part of measures to cut the U.S. budget deficit, while the three biggest arms spenders after the U.S.—China, Russia and Saudi Arabia—greatly increased their purchases. Saudi Arabia boosted its military investments the most, by 17 percent, while China's arms spending rose by 9.7 percent to an estimated \$216 billion.

SIPRI program director Sam Perlo-Freeman said the conflict in Ukraine has prompted many European countries near Russia to increase military spending, particularly in central Europe, the Baltics and the Nordic countries. On the other hand, the five biggest spenders in western Europe—France, Britain, Germany, Italy and

Spain—have all budgeted for further, small cuts this year.

“The Ukraine crisis has fundamentally altered the security situation in Europe, but so far the impact on military spending is mostly apparent in countries bordering Russia,” he said. “Elsewhere, austerity remains the main driver of downward spending trends.”

Ukraine increased expenditure by over 20 percent in 2014 and plans to more than double spending on the armed forces in 2015. In line with plans made before the Ukraine conflict Moscow is also spending more on arms this year, the institute said in its report.

The fast build-up of arms in areas such as the Middle East and Africa is “placing an increasingly high burden on economies,” Perlo-Freeman added.

“These increases partly reflect worsening security situations, but in many cases they are also the product of corruption, vested interests and autocratic governance,” he said.

In Latin America, Mexico increased its spending by 11 percent because of the continuing battle against drug cartels, with Brazil's expenditure falling slightly due to economic difficulties. Crisis-hit Venezuela had the largest drop in the region, of 34 percent.

## Embattled Yemen leader names new vice president

By AHMED AL-HAJ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country in the face of a rebel advance last month, has tapped his former Prime Minister Khaled Bahah to be vice president in a move aimed at strengthening the embattled executive branch, an official close to Hadi said.

The Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, had demanded the formation of a presidential council instead. Along with military units allied with former Presi-

dent Ali Abdullah Saleh, they control the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, and have advanced despite more than two weeks of Saudi-led airstrikes.

Mohammed Abdel Salam, a Houthi spokesman, denounced the appointment of Bahah in televised comments on a pro-Houthi channel. He said that the Houthi group will not recognize decisions promulgated by Hadi and that anything pertaining to the country's politics should be decided upon through dialogue within the country.

U.N. special envoy for Ye-

men Jamal Benomar has been urging the parties to come to a negotiated settlement. Saleh has also called for a U.N.-sponsored dialogue.

Hadi fled the capital earlier this year after the Houthis put him under house arrest, and established a temporary capital in the southern port city of Aden. He later sought refuge in Saudi Arabia as the rebels and their allies closed in on Aden, which is now gripped by fierce fighting.

The Houthis also held Bahah and other Cabinet ministers under house arrest for weeks, eventually setting them free in

the middle of March. During their detention, Bahah and the Cabinet members resigned in protest. Bahah is currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

Bahah, who hails from southern Yemen, served as Yemen's ambassador to the United Nations before he was appointed prime minister following weeks of political deadlock.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister refused calls from Tehran to stop its aerial assault. Iran supports the Houthis, who are fellow Shiites, but both Tehran and the rebels deny it arms them.

## Video: Islamic State group destroys ancient ruins of Nimrud

BAGHDAD (AP)—Islamic State militants hammered, bulldozed and ultimately blew up parts of the ancient Iraqi Assyrian city of Nimrud, destroying a site dating back to the 13th century B.C., an online militant video purportedly shows.

The destruction at Nimrud, located near the militant-held city of Mosul, came amid other attacks on antiquity carried out by the group now holding a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate. The attacks have horrified archaeologists and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who last month called the destruction at Nimrud “a war crime.”

The seven-minute video, posted late Saturday, shows

bearded militants using sledgehammers, jackhammers and saws to take down huge alabaster reliefs depicting Assyrian kings and deities. A bulldozer brings down walls, while militants fill barrels with explosives and later destroy three separate areas of the site in massive explosions.

“God has honored us in the Islamic State to remove all of these idols and statutes worshipped instead of Allah in the past days,” one militant says in the video. Another militant vows that “whenever we seize a piece of land, we will remove signs of idolatry and spread monotheism.”

The militants have been destroying ancient relics they say

promote idolatry that violate their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law, including the ancient Iraqi city of Hatra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Authorities also believe they've sold others on the black market to fund their atrocities.

Some of the figures in the video released Saturday at Nimrud appeared to have rebar, ribbed bars of steels designed to reinforce concrete that are a technique of modern building. An Iraqi Antiquities Ministry official, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to talk to journalists, said all the items at Nimrud were authentic. In March, both Iraqi and United Nations offi-

cials warned the site had been looted and damaged.

The video conformed to other Associated Press reporting about the militants' attack.

The Assyrians first rose around 2,500 B.C. and at one point ruled over a realm stretching from the Mediterranean coast to what is present-day Iran. They left dozens of palaces and temples decorated with huge reliefs mainly depicting their kings' military campaigns and conquests, hunting lions and making sacrifices to the gods. Their main hallmark was the colossal winged man-headed lions or bulls, protective deities put at the entrances of palaces and temples weighing about 10-30 tons each.



# Focus

By **ADAM GELLER**  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In the reading room overlooking Pennsylvania Avenue, Karen Needles mostly works alone—but always in good company.

Five mornings a week, she arrives at the National Archives, often wearing an Abraham Lincoln T-shirt. Beside her laptop with its Lincoln mouse pad, she sometimes stations an Honest Abe bobblehead, seemingly nodding approval.

Here, three blocks from where, 150 years ago this week, Lincoln was killed, Needles works to bring him to life, scanning every original record she can from Lincoln's administration and posting them online.

To Needles, raised in small town Kansas and first in her family to go to college, Lincoln has long been a role model. But we could all use some Lincoln, the former history teacher says, relishing the notion of his statue at the Lincoln Memorial taking today's politicians over his knee.

"Lincoln never dies," she says.

Soon after John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln on April 14, 1865, the country embarked on a 1,700-mile funeral from Washington to Springfield, Illinois. Day and night, crowds lined the rails in a cathartic outpouring that has never been rivaled.

Today, the commemoration stirs the voices of Lincoln's modern-day admirers, some connecting with him in almost personal terms, while searching anew for his relevance to the republic he left behind.

When tourists queue in front of Ford's Theatre on a recent blustery morning, 9-year-old Luke Ring is near the front, wearing the blue cap of a Union soldier.

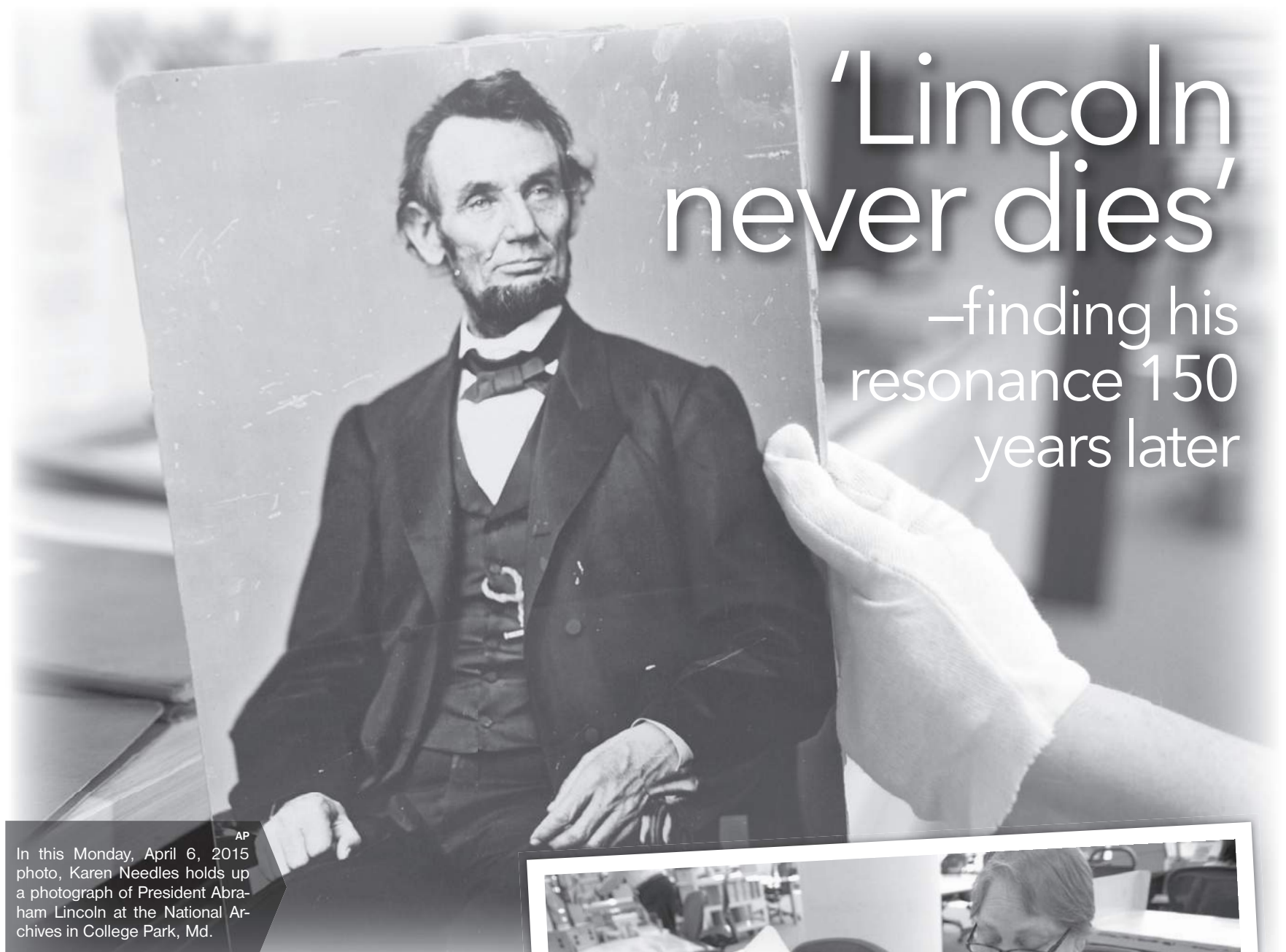
"I like that he was president during the Civil War and he wanted freedom for the slaves," says the boy, here with his family from Franklin, Tennessee, to see the theater box, draped in bunting, where Booth drew his pistol.

Lincoln's death elevated him to martyrdom, says Richard Wightman Fox, author of "Lincoln's Body: A Cultural History." Today, he still embodies the American ideal that anyone can reach the pinnacle. But with Lincoln now used to market auto insurance and barbecue sauce, the aura of sainthood has faded.

Instead, for many, he is the approachable president, a "model for what it means to be a leader," Fox says.

"He was very real," says Sherri Bell of Indianapolis, after reading Lincoln's second Inaugural engraved in the memorial's limestone. "He was president, but he seemed like a regular person, with all the pain and suffering and decisions..."

From Washington, the funeral train traveled to Baltimore, then Philadelphia, where lines to



AP  
In this Monday, April 6, 2015 photo, Karen Needles holds up a photograph of President Abraham Lincoln at the National Archives in College Park, Md.

view Lincoln's body stretched three miles from Independence Hall. Then the 9-car procession continued north, retracing much of Lincoln's 1861 route to the White House.

On that first journey, the train made a stop in Peekskill, New York, celebrated by the local Lincoln Society for decades. But the depot, now a museum, also is the spot where, four years later, mourners gathered.

In late April, a replica of Lincoln's walnut coffin will lie in state in Peekskill's depot, with Civil War re-enactors standing sentry. Visitors will sign a condolence book to be sent to Springfield.

"We wouldn't be the country that we are without the Union that he preserved," says Tony Czarnecki, past president of the society. "We honor that in ways large and small."

The Rev. Duncan Newcomer wrote his divinity school thesis on Lincoln. Leading congregations in Kentucky and Connecticut, he sermonized about him. Later, as a psychotherapist, Newcomer says he found Lincoln a prism for understanding people's struggles.

Today, 71 and living in Belfast, Maine, Newcomer remains fascinated by Lincoln as a template for Americans still struggling with race relations and societal conflict.

"I do feel like he's been some

kind of soul mate for me," Newcomer says.

Don Johnson, a trumpeter who played period tunes for the 2012 film "Lincoln," reflects on the long-dead president, watching modern audiences. One listener wept hearing the mournful "Home Sweet Home," long ago played in unison by Union and Confederate troops. Another piece, from a favorite Lincoln opera about war and sacrifice, made Johnson consider the mindset of a president who knew many he sent to battle would not return.

"All you need to do is just look at his face and you can see the kindness in him ...," says Johnson, who lives near Lebanon, Kentucky. "I think we connect every time we have a concert."

Twenty years ago, Dave Kloke watched a documentary about Lincoln's push to build the transcontinental railroad and became intrigued.

So Kloke, owner of a home construction business, built a working replica of a 1860s steam engine. Afterward, he began researching the custom-made train car that carried Lincoln's coffin. The original was destroyed in a 1911 fire.

Over the past five years, Kloke has built an exact copy of the maroon car, with gold leaf and brass fittings. He had hoped to hook it to the locomotive and re-travel the funeral route, but



AP  
In this Monday, April 6, 2015 photo, Karen Needles looks through pardon case files from the Lincoln administration at the National Archives in College Park, Md. "They call me Lady Lincoln," chuckles the former middle school history teacher who digitally scans every original record she can from Lincoln's administration—from letters he signed to his final paycheck for \$1,981.67—posting them online for anyone to see without charge.

couldn't find financial sponsors. Still, in a workshop in Elgin, Illinois, he is scrambling to finish painting and upholstering, intent on getting the car to Springfield by early May.

Of Lincoln, Kloke says, "I just think he lived like I try to live my life, just trying to be an honest person and going forward and doing the right thing."

The first school bus arrives just after 9, and soon the rotunda of Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum echoes with fifth graders.

Students from nearby Pleasant Plains Elementary study the photo of a 10-year-old soldier. "Holy smoke!" one boy says.

A doorway leads to a darkened chamber cradling a replica of Lincoln's coffin.

"It's hard to imagine that it actually happened," fifth grader Nevaeh Ezzo says.

Daniel Stowell, director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the neighboring presidential library, says we're still wrestling with race, state's rights, and self-government. Lincoln still draws people looking for answers.

Robert Davis recalls childhood in Detroit, hearing elders talk of his great grandparents' life after slavery and the family's road north.

Today, Davis, 72 and retired to Springfield, dons a Union

uniform to re-enact the role of a runaway slave in the U.S. Colored Troops. This month, he directs a play about abolition.

"I think Lincoln was one of those men who could see through the fog of time, the fog of history, and he had a vision of a road for this country," Davis says. "We're not there yet. Ferguson showed us that ... but we're still on that road."

On an overcast afternoon, travelers circle into Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Ryan Harvey, with his parents from Gurnee, Illinois, rubs the nose on a bronze bust of Lincoln.

"I can feel that he's still here, somehow," the 10-year-old says.



## Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you're a parent, you know how much children cost. This puts many a parent in bargain-hunting mode. Which brings us to Hyundai, the Korean automaker long known for selling four-wheeled, blue-light specials—or at least that's the image many consumers still have in their mind. Nevertheless, while the company's new models have long eschewed the discount rack, they still offer compelling value.

Consider the 2015 Hyundai Santa Fe, a three-row crossover that graced my driveway this past week. It was loaded, with a panoramic sunroof, heated first and second row seats, leather-trimmed interior, second row captain's chairs, third row power folding seats, rear seat climate controls, rear side window shades, power rear liftgate, HID headlights, LED taillights, navigation system with 8-inch touch screen, a 12-speaker 550-watt Infinity audio system, rear parking assist, memory driver's seat, a 290-horsepower V-6, all-wheel drive and a six-speed automatic transmission.

Given that there's enough standard gear to make anyone feel like Daddy Warbucks, you would not only say that it's not just an undeniable value, it's positively luxurious.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines luxury as "the state of great comfort and extravagant living or an inessential but desirable item." While it's true that the Santa Fe offers great comfort, it also feels extravagant when compared to—say—a Hyundai Accent.

So let's start with comfort.

The cabin is roomy and comfortable, with generous head and leg room up front, and equal amounts of the same in the second row. Third row space seems a bit tight, but most of the time these seats will be folded to make best use of the available cargo space.

That said, the second row captain's chairs seating position felt a little low for adults. Up front, seat comfort was very good, providing good support during long stints behind the wheel. The interior was fairly quiet as well.

The instrument panel is easy to understand and operate, and the gauges are easy to read. Some lesser-used controls, such as the heated steering wheel button, are buried on the left side of the steering wheel where it's hard to see or reach. More useful were the steering wheel mounted audio controls.

For 2015, Hyundai has revised the steering and suspension of the Santa Fe, although its personality remains intact. The Santa Fe delivers a compliant ride that ably soaks up bumps without undue body motions. While pockmarked pavement showed the body structure

## So you know the way to Santa Fe?



HYUNDAI  
The 2015 Hyundai Santa Fe.

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

## Santa Fe:

- Engine: 3.3-liter DOHC V-6
- Horsepower: 290
- Torque: 252 pound-feet
- Wheelbase: 110.2 inches
- Length: 193.1 inches
- Cargo volume: 13.5-80 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 2,000-5,000 pounds
- Curb weight: 4,145 pounds
- EPA rating (city/highway): 17/22
- Fuel type: Regular unleaded
- NHSTA safety rating: Not rated
- Base price, base model: \$30,150
- Base price, test model: \$36,000

to be fairly stiff, it brought with a symphony of interior rattles and caused the second row captain's chairs to vibrate noticeably. Handling is not sporty, but the suspension revisions lend the driver a bit more confidence, with little of the excessive softness once typical of Korean automobiles. Drivers can adjust steering feel, choosing Normal, Sport or Comfort modes. Normal mode is the best, as Sport feels artificially heavy and Comfort seems too loose.

There's one driveline: a 3.3-liter V-6 mated to a six-speed automatic transmission and provides an effortless, refined stream of power. The six-speed automatic is responsive most of

the time. However, if you need extra power while cruising at highway speed, you will have to wait for it to downshift.

Fuel consumption falls within the Environmental Protection Agency ratings of 17 mpg city, 22 mpg highway, 19 mpg combined. Thankfully, the Santa Fe

drinks regular unleaded.

Once you leave the gas station, you'll find it tries to mimic the RX350's otherworldly serenity, but never quite makes it.

And while the Santa Fe is certainly comfortable, even fully loaded, it's not extravagant. You'd never describe it as "an inessential but desirable item"—it's too practical to wear that label.

## MOTORING Q&amp;A

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**Q: We are having trouble with our 2012 Chevy Sonic. The key gets stuck and won't come out of the ignition. And now, the key won't turn the other way so that we can start the car. Sometimes just jiggling the steering wheel helps. While it was under warranty it was repaired and a sensor was replaced. Now the problem is back and it is not under warranty anymore.**

**A:** My suggestion is to ask the dealership service manager to investigate whether this issue is a continuation of the original problem covered under warranty. Personally, I would hope it would be covered under the original warranty, or a customer "goodwill" policy.

The inability to turn the key to the start position may be related to a mechanical issue with the lock cylinder or a problem with the steering column lock mechanism, as illustrated by your intermittent success in "jiggling" the steering wheel. Flushing the lock cylinder with an aerosol electrical contact cleaner followed by a light ap-

plication of a lubricant may help. Make sure the key is not bent or misshapen, causing the lock to bind. I've even read of folks lightly tapping the end of the key while it's in the ignition to help free any stuck tumblers.

**Q: My 2006 Camry XLE with 97,000 miles has developed a "clunk" in the rear end when going over small or large bumps. A mechanic that I took it to told me that the rear struts are in good shape and do not need to be replaced. He does not have any ideas as to the source of the problem.**

**A:** How about the strut mounts? My ALldata database pulled up Toyota service bulletin SU001-06 dated February 2006 addressing a thump noise from the rear suspension when traveling over bumps. Toyota issued updated rear upper supports and rear shock absorber service parts to fix this issue.

Did your mechanic check for possible contact between the exhaust system and the chassis? Any part of the exhaust system hitting the chassis

when the car goes over a bump could create this type of noise.

**Q: I have a 1999 Toyota Avalon with 132,000 miles that runs like the day I bought it. Recently, two lights on the dashboard came on; the check engine light and the traction control OFF light. The dealer said the EGR valve and an oxygen sensor need to be replaced for about \$800. An independent shop said that the EGR should be replaced (occasionally the engine will stutter/vibrate), and that replacement of the EGR valve should also eliminate the traction-control OFF light from coming on. He also said that when you replace an oxygen sensor, there is a strong likelihood of it coming back on at a later date. I still love the car, but I don't think I want to put \$800-\$900 in a 16-year old car.**

**A:** The only connection I can envision between the stutter/vibrate from too much exhaust gas recirculation (EGR valve) and the TCS shutting off would be a quick enough change in rotational speed of

the front drive wheels relative to the rear wheels to mimic a problem with the system. But that's a huge stretch—I'm not sure I didn't create the mental picture just to fit the symptom!

Regardless, a scan tool should identify the EGR and TCS issues via specific fault codes. If the EGR is faulty, replace it and drive the car to confirm whether or not it was a factor in the TCS OFF issue.

You didn't mention whether the dealer identified a specific oxygen sensor fault code, but any vehicle with 132K miles on the original O2 sensor will benefit from a new one—better mileage and more efficient operation. As long as a new oxygen sensor is working properly, it should not trigger a fault code.

*Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*



# Life & Style

## Woodley, 'Fault In Our Stars,' win big at MTV Movie Awards

By **LINDSEY BAHAR**  
AP FILM WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Vin Diesel sang, Channing Tatum danced and Zac Efron showed off his toned abs yet again as the best shirtless winner for the second year in a row at Sunday's MTV Movie Awards.

"This is definitely not the Oscars," said "22 Jump Street" star Jillian Bell as he arrived for MTV's 24th annual irreverent treatment on Hollywood award shows.

In addition to such cheeky, fan-voted honors as best kiss and best shirtless performance, the awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles also served as an unofficial promotional platform for the upcoming blockbuster season.

Almost at odds with the raunchy spirit of the show, the big winner of the evening was the teen tearjerker "The Fault in Our Stars," which got the Golden Popcorn statuette for best movie of the year as well as multiple wins for star Shailene Woodley.

Other winners included Bradley Cooper, Channing Tatum and Jennifer Lopez, as well as Jennifer Lawrence and Meryl Streep, who were not in attendance.

Woodley, who picked up the award for best female performance in "The Fault in Our Stars" in addition to the Trailblazer Award and best kiss honor (with Ansel Elgort), gave an emotional speech dedicated to the book's author, John Green.

"He gave this world a beau-



Miles Teller, right, presents Shailene Woodley with the trailblazer award at the MTV Movie Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, April 12, 2015, in Los Angeles.

### WINNERS' LIST

Complete list of winners at Sunday night's MTV Movie Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles:

■ Movie of the year: "The Fault in Our Stars."

■ Best female performance: Shailene Woodley, "The Fault in Our Stars."

■ Best male performance: Bradley Cooper, "American Sniper."

■ Best scared-as-s--- performance: Jennifer Lopez, "The Boy Next Door."

■ Breakthrough performance: Dylan O'Brien, "The Maze Runner."

■ Best shirtless performance: Zac Efron, "Neighbors."

■ Best duo: Zac Efron and Dave

Franco, "Neighbors."

■ Best fight: Dylan O'Brien vs. Will Poulter, "The Maze Runner."

■ Best kiss: Ansel Elgort and Shailene Woodley, "The Fault in Our Stars."

■ WTF moment: Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne, "Neighbors."

■ Best villain: Meryl Streep, "Into the Woods."

■ Best musical moment: Jennifer Lawrence, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 1."

■ Best comedic performance: Channing Tatum, "22 Jump Street."

■ Best on-screen transformation: Elizabeth Banks, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 1."

tiful masterpiece," she said directly to Green, who was seated in the audience. Woodley said that the book changed her life when she read it and that his words will transcend the test of time.

In another poignant moment, Cooper, who won best male performance for portraying the late Chris Kyle in "American Sniper," thanked the audience for making the film such a big success and bringing attention to the plight of the soldiers.

"Chris Kyle would have

turned 41 four days ago. Chris, this is for you," said Cooper.

But it was hard to be uniformly gracious when categories include other wacky awards like best villain (Streep for "Into the Woods"), and best WTF moment (Rose Byrne and Seth Rogen for "Neighbors").

Kevin Hart, who was the target of many size-related jokes throughout the night, brought his kids on stage to accept the comedic genius award. "I do it all for them," he said. "I'm trying to leave a legacy behind."

Host Amy Schumer set the tone at the outset, poking fun at MTV, Hillary Clinton and even Harrison Ford.

"This is going to be the party of the year. I just hope Harrison Ford doesn't crash it," Schumer said, referring to the actor's recent plane mishap.

In one of the most energetic moments of the show, Robert Downey Jr. brought his fellow Avengers to their knees while accepting the Generation Award.

Cast mates Scarlett Johans-

son, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo and Jeremy Renner all took the stage to present their co-star with the award, which Downey called "the recognition I so desire." They then fell to their knees as Downey talked about his memories of the first MTV Movie Awards, and "clawing" his way to the top.

"I partied way too much. I've squandered, resisted, repented," he said, imploring the audience to "dream big, work hard, keep your nose clean."

But the real focus was on what's coming up at the multiplex this summer. The Movie Awards' 2013, host Rebel Wilson, and her "Pitch Perfect" co-stars introduced a new clip from their upcoming sequel.

The team behind "Paper Towns," an adaptation of John Green's novel, debuted a new clip as well.

Of course, there was also an agenda behind Downey's accolade: the promotion of "Ultron." The "Iron Man" star introduced a new clip from the Marvel blockbuster, which bows May 1.

Even host Schumer had a film to promote: "Trainwreck," a relationship comedy with Bill Hader from director Judd Apatow that Schumer wrote and stars in.

"Go see my movie 'Trainwreck,' I think that's the biggest lesson we've all learned here tonight," said Schumer as she closed the show.

## New series "Versailles" hopes to mark French TV golden age

**VERSAILLES, France** (AP)—Will the Sun King usher in the dawn of a French television golden age? The makers of the new historical drama "Versailles" hope so.

Based on King Louis XIV, the series has a budget of \$30 million—making it the most expensive show France has ever produced. And the biggest surprise for a nation known for Gallic pride: The show will be in English.

The ambition is none other than to put France on the international television map. French television had already been making global strides with the French zombie series "The Returned" bagging the 2013 International Emmy Award and Netflix launching in France with a new French political thriller, "Marseille." With "Versailles," the goal is to compete head-to-head in the United States with the likes of Britain's "Downton Abbey" and American fantasy smash hit "Game of Thrones."

The show will be broadcast from November in France on Canal+. The plan is then to bring it to the United States,



In this Monday, Feb. 16, 2015 photo, extras wait next to a horse-drawn carriage during the filming of "Versailles," in the Chateau de Versailles, west of Paris.

Britain and beyond.

In order to give it more international appeal, "Versailles" was filmed entirely in English, from a script by British and American writers. That's tantamount to sacrilege in a nation that fiercely defends its language—and where

intellectuals rail against Hollywood domination.

The producers are unapologetic.

"I'm not sure what the French Academy would say. We're going to get a lot of flak. But they should relax," said

co-producer Claude Chelli. "It's realpolitik—if you want to be heard and seen everywhere in the world, you have to go through English."

When "Versailles" airs at home this fall, it will be subtitled or dubbed into French.

"I know it seems strange to French people. But it's nice to have another angle to our own culture," Chelli said. "The English and American (scriptwriters) brought something and wrote stuff that no French person could write."

The show's plot has been shrouded in secrecy. All that is known so far is that the series explores the life of Louis XIV and features George Blagden from "Vikings" as the womanizing king; Lizzie Brochere from "American Horror Story"; and Amira Casar as a trouble-ridden courtesan.

"I'd like to see it at the Emmys," said co-producer Fabrice Larue. "Already, we've gotten strong signs of interest from networks in the U.S."

The cast has relished every moment in the fabulous costumes of Madeleine Fontaine, who is known for her work on the award-winning 2001 "Amelie."

"Louis XIV had fabulous taste, invented fashions and high society, and this show has it all," said Casar, who was able to cope with the ordeal of wearing a corset for days on end thanks to "old school" drama training.

Blagden felt slightly less at ease when the clothes came off—in the season's many torrid scenes.

"Sex scenes are always awkward. Anyone that's ever done a sex scene in our industry know that they are the most embarrassing and really awkward as they're really technical, difficult to shoot," he said. "I'd not done a lot of them before these series."

For him, the best part was playing one of the most colorful figures in history.

"It's a bit of a big undertaking. But it's the role of a lifetime," he said. "His nickname is the sun king, and he's known in France as the king who created luxury."

There's also the added job security of playing a character who you know can't be killed off—since Louis XIV's reign of 72 years and 110 days is the longest of any monarch of a major European country.

"On my last show 'Vikings,' the writer can kill you off whenever you wanted," Blagden said. "I suppose when you do a series about someone as famous as Louis, you think 'Maybe we could get 60 seasons out of this.'"



# Library group: The 10 books with most complaints

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It turns out at least one part of publishing has a diverse slate of authors: The books most likely to be pulled from school and library shelves.

The American Library Association on Monday released its annual list of the 10 books receiving the most complaints from parents, educators and others in the local community. Sherman Alexie's prize-winning, autobiographical novel of school life, "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," ranked No. 1, followed by Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel "Persepolis" and the picture book about two male penguins raising a baby penguin,

Peter Parnell's and Justin Richardson's "And Tango Makes Three."

Others on the list include Toni Morrison's debut novel, "The Bluest Eye"; Khaled Hosseini's million-selling novel "The Kite Runner" and Jaycee Dugard's best-selling memoir about her kidnapping, "A Stolen Life."

The remaining books cited by the library association were Robie Harris' "It's Perfectly Normal"; "Saga," by Brian Vaughan and Fiona Staples; Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"; and Raina Telgemeier's "Drama."

Several of the authors listed were either non-whites, even though just a small percentage

of books released each year are by non-whites, or writers of books with gay, lesbian or transgender themes. According to a study compiled last fall by the web site Diversity in YA, which advocates diversity in young adult literature, around 20 percent of books that appeared on the library association's challenged books list since 2000 have been by non-white authors. Over half of the books included content about non-whites, non-heterosexuals or disabled people.

"Diversity is slim throughout all genres of books and across all age groups—except when it comes to book challenges," wrote the report's author, Ma-

linda Lo, herself a young adult novelist.

Reasons for books being challenged ranged from "cultural insensitivity" in Alexie's novel, in which the author draws upon his experiences as an American Indian at a virtually all-white high school; to "promotes the homosexual agenda" in "And Tango Makes Three." Common complaints include explicit sex, violence, references to drugs and alcohols and offensive language.

The "Harry Potter" novels were frequent targets a decade ago and the "Twilight" and "The Hunger Games" series also began appearing on the ALA reports as their popularity

surged. Older books that have been frequently challenged include "The Bluest Eye," Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The library association defines a challenge as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness." The ALA counted 311 challenges last year, roughly the same as last year and well below the levels of the 1980s and '90s, when the rise of the Moral Majority led to widespread efforts to have books pulled.

Barbara Jones, director of

the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, told The Associated Press that the ALA has long believed that for every complaint registered, four to five go unreported by libraries and that some librarians may restrict access in anticipation of objections.

The list is based on press accounts and reports from librarians, teachers and "concerned individuals." The ALA does not have precise numbers for books actually censored, but notes several incidents in 2014, including the removal of Alexie's novel from some schools in Idaho.

The challenged books list is part of the ALA's 2015 State of America's Libraries Report.

## France recreates prehistoric paintings from disputed cave

**PRIVAS, France (AP)**—Jean-Marie Chauvet noticed air whistling out from a crack on a plateau in southern France, so he and fellow cave enthusiasts went to investigate. What they found that Sunday in 1994 still fills Chauvet's voice with wonder: an immense cave covered with prehistoric paintings of horses, mammoths and rhinos—paintings so vivid, he says, it felt like the Stone Age artists had just moments ago put down their ochre and walked away.

The discovery of the long-hidden artwork created a sensation, but the site was quickly closed to the public. Just by breathing, tourists could erode the images.

Since most modern humans will never get to see the masterpieces in what is widely known as the Chauvet Cave, scientists, artists and the French government have spent 56 million euros (about \$60 million) and

several years creating the next best thing: a near-exact replica of the cave about two kilometers (1.2 miles) away, including more than 400 paintings of horses, bears, rhinoceros and mammoths, hand prints and carvings. Experts even recreated stalactites and stalagmites from the original site, as well as the cool temperatures and thick smell of humidity.

French President Francois Hollande unveiled the site Friday, and it opens to the public later this month.

In a rare interview, Chauvet described digging through narrow passageways and guiding a flashlight in the blackness until one of his fellow spelunkers came across "the two lines of red ochre. . . That's when it started."

"What impressed us," Chauvet said, "was the freshness. . . The paintings are as if they had just left, these men, these women" who painted

them. "And the deeper you go, the more grandiose. It's really an art gallery."

It turned out they had been remarkably well-preserved thanks to a rock fall about 23,000 years ago that concealed the site. The conditions kept the drawings in such a pristine state that some researchers doubted their authenticity.

"This cave wasn't exposed to gusts of violent air," Chauvet said. "It was preserved, like in a jar."

Questions surrounded the exact date of the paintings, now widely believed to be between 30,000 and 37,000 years old. That means they were the oldest human cave drawings known at the time of the discovery. Since then, scientists have determined that cave drawings in El Castillo in Spain were painted at least 40,000 years ago.

Chauvet fought years of legal battles against the French government over rights to the

discovery, and is still seeking royalties. Officials with the Culture Ministry were convicted of falsifying documents to make it look like he was on official duty when he found it; he insists he was on holiday at the time.

Today the site is officially managed by regional and national government authorities, and it doesn't officially bear the discoverers' names, to Chauvet's dismay.

Authorities say they are putting the public's interest first.

Pascal Terrasse, a legislator in charge of the replica project, described being the first government official to enter the original cave soon after the discovery: "We understood that we had to quickly protect it, and ensure that it was never opened to the public" to protect it from "carbonic gases" from visitors, he told AP.

Experts have recorded more than 1,000 images from the

walls of the cave, inscribed last year on UNESCO's World Heritage List. German filmmaker Werner Herzog brought the original cave alive in a 3-D film, "Cave of Forgotten Dreams."

The replica tries to reproduce as much of that as possible. Millimeter by millimeter, scientists and artists used the same tools and techniques believed to have been used in the Stone Age.

It feels strange at first, a bit like an amusement park. But a similar replica—of the

18,000-year-old cave drawings in the Lascaux caves in southwest France—draws about 300,000 visitors yearly.

Organizers are hoping for similar crowds at the Pont d'Arc Cavern opening this month, despite the remote locale in this striking but little-traveled corner of southeast France.

The next step, Terrasse said, could be "a virtual version, 3D, something that could move around"—and bring prehistory to generations looking to the future.

## 'Furious 7' keeps speed, tops box office with \$60.6 million

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The high-octane thriller "Furious 7" maintained speed in its second week, racing away with \$60.6 million at North American theaters and bringing its box-office total to a robust \$252.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal's "Furious 7" more than lapped the competition. The only new wide release of the weekend, the rodeo romance "The Longest Ride," opened with \$13.5 million.

That was good enough for third place for the Fox release, which stars Clint Eastwood's son, Scott Eastwood. In second was the DreamWorks animated alien adventure "Home," which pulled in \$19 million in its third week of release.

But "Furious 7" continued to dominate the marketplace, dropping only 59 percent from its remarkable \$147.2 million debut last weekend. Globally, it has already crossed \$800 million in its first two weeks of release, according to Universal.

The weekend international total—an eye-popping \$195 million—was boosted by the film premiering in China on Sunday, where it earned an estimated \$68.6 million in just one day.

Over 10 days, "Furious 7," which prominently fea-

tures a tribute to the late actor Paul Walker, has already out-grossed all previous installments of the 14-year-old franchise.

At its current pace, "Furious 7" will likely become the highest grossing film in Universal's history. The studio's "Jurassic Park," from 1993, holds Universal's mark with \$1.02 billion worldwide.

It's a summer blockbuster-sized result for "Furious 7," but by opening in April, it has little competition in its way. On a much smaller scale, the critically acclaimed sci-fi film "Ex Machina" drew the year's largest theater average of \$62,489 in four theaters.

1. **"Furious 7,"** \$60.6 million (\$195 million international).
2. **"Home,"** \$19 million (\$15.2 million international).
3. **"The Longest Ride,"** \$13.5 million (\$3 million international).
4. **"Get Hard,"** \$8.6 million (\$1.4 million international).
5. **"Cinderella,"** \$7.2 million (\$12.6 million international).
6. **"The Divergent Series: Insurgent,"** \$6.9 million (\$7.9 million international).
7. **"Woman in Gold,"** \$5.9 million.
8. **"It Follows,"** \$2 million.
9. **"Danny Collins,"** \$1.6 million.
10. **"While We're Young,"** \$1.4 million.



AP

A March 6, 2015 photo from files showing visitors in the life size replica of Grotte Chauvet, or Chauvet cave, in Vallon Pont d'Arc, near Bollene, southern France.



# Cross-dressing singer wins hearts in macho Bosnia

**SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)**—That night, Bozo Vreco risked everything.

After seducing the audience with his crystal clear voice, Vreco disappeared from the stage and returned moments later to continue his concert—dressed as a woman.

In notoriously macho Bosnia, where gays mostly stay in the closet, it took some time for people to realize what had happened.

But when the truth sank in, the audience roared its approval.

“I was not afraid,” Vreco remembers. “I wanted to see their reaction to who I am. To see whether it is enough to be honest for people to love you. And it is.”

Two years later, the 31 year-old cross-dressing singer is one of Bosnia’s most beloved stars, his voice described by fans as “mesmerizing” and “magical.”

Vreco’s honesty and his emotionally charged interpretations of “Sevdalinka”—Bosnian folk songs about lovesickness—have often left the audience, and



AP  
Flamboyant Bosnian Serb singer Bozo Vreco performs during a concert in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on Friday April, 3, 2015.

himself, in tears. His passion and artistry force even hardened conservatives to forget their prejudices, sometimes for good.

Vreco expresses his feminine side on stage wearing dresses, long tunics or floating coats which he whirls around on stage.

Born in the eastern town of Foca, Vreco lost his father when he was 5 and grew up poor with a mother and two sisters. He

was also bullied for coming across as effeminate in a conservative culture.

“I swallowed my portion of torture, disapproval and dark moments while growing up,” Vreco said. “I was a child and did not learn to make what is ugly bounce off me.”

As he studied archaeology in neighboring Serbia, Vreco realized that his real passion was Sevdalinka. One day, the ethnic Serb gathered courage and traveled to Sarajevo—the heart of traditionally Bosnian Muslim Sevdalinka music—where he had no friends and no family, and where he could have faced another layer of prejudice because of memories of Serbian aggression during the Balkan wars.

A few days later, alone in his hostel room, Vreco opened the window and watched the snowflakes falling on the city’s rooftops—an image of fleeting beauty that gave him courage.

“That’s when I told myself, I will make it here,” he recalled.

A local musician heard him sing in a cafe. In no time, Vreco was part of a band and recorded his first CD. Then he embraced his identity for everyone to see at that fateful concert.

“I am happy now, Vreco said. “I am who I am, both in private and professionally.”

His eyes glow when he talks about his music—and his fans.

“I am surrounded with so much love,” he said. “All the messages people are sending, all the stuff they say on the street. If I ever wished anything for myself, it’s this.”

Hamida Besic, a 76-year-old Sarajevan, saw Vreco in concert last week.

“People love courage,” said Besic. “Not only has he crushed all the prejudice, but he has completely defeated all of the provincial primitivism of this society ... He also broke national barriers. He crushed everything.”

“And the voice,” she said. “It is as if God had placed an angel into his throat.”

## Actor Ryan Reynolds hit, not injured, by car in Vancouver

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)**—Actor Ryan Reynolds was the victim of a hit-and-run in a hotel parking lot, his publicist and Vancouver police said Sunday.

“While walking, Ryan was struck by a paparazzi driving a car through an underground parking garage,” publicist Leslie Sloane said. “The man fled the scene. Ryan is okay.”

In an email, Brian Montague with Vancouver police said the star was not injured in Friday’s incident. Montague had no further details.

The Vancouver-born Reynolds has been in the city over the past several weeks shooting his new film, “Deadpool.”



AP  
In this Feb. 26, 2015, file photo, Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds poses for a portrait in New York.

## Rocker Mellencamp’s sons plead guilty to misdemeanor battery

**BLOOMINGTON, Indiana (AP)**—A judge has sentenced the sons of rock star John Mellencamp after they both pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery charges stemming from a July 2013 altercation.

The Herald-Times reports (<http://bit.ly/1axvGG8>) 19-year-old Speck Mellencamp was sentenced to four days in

jail and 20-year-old Hud Mellencamp must serve 50 hours community service. They entered the pleas Friday after the charges were reduced from felonies. They allegedly punched and kicked a 19-year-old man in Bloomington who they believed had hit Speck Mellencamp.

Both also were sentenced to one year of probation.

Monroe County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Bob Miller said the charges were downgraded because medical records did not substantiate “serious bodily injury” as charged in the felony cases.

The Mellencamps’ mother, model Elaine Irwin, attended the hearing, but their father did not.

## Akon show called off in Kuwait after pressure from lawmakers

**KUWAIT CITY (AP)**—A planned concert by Akon was called off in Kuwait after conservative lawmakers criticized it on moral grounds.

The American singer whose hits include “Smack That” and “I Wanna Love You” was scheduled to headline a weekend event also featuring local performers to raise

awareness about the dangers of phone use while driving.

One of the organizers, Reema al-Yacoub, told The Associated Press on Sunday that authorities called off the show late last week but did not give a clear explanation.

Members of parliament had pressed authorities to stop the

performance, with one, Humood al-Hamdan, telling local paper Al Rai that children need protection from the influence of “negative people.”

Traditional Islamic values mean that alcohol and pornography are banned in Kuwait, and women are expected to dress modestly.

## Husband’s family meetings leave wife out of the loop

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, “Rory,” and I both come from close families. Whenever something is wrong, troublesome, etc., in either of our families, we have meetings where the entire immediate family comes together to discuss the issue.

The problem is, I am not invited to his! It’s not like I’m a recent addition to this family. Rory and I dated for 15 years before getting married. My family started inviting him to our meetings after we had dated for a year, including discussions about my dad losing his job, my brother’s stint in rehab and more.

Rory’s family has had lots of similar meetings, but I am excluded because I am not a blood relative. Even when my husband lost his job, I was not invited to attend. I was left sitting out in the hallway with the children and the boyfriend of one of his other siblings.

I am Rory’s WIFE. Shouldn’t I be allowed in on the family discussions now that we’re married, especially ones that center on my husband? Am I overreacting because I’m so angry about this? How can I overcome this exclusion from his family?

WANTS TO JOIN IN

**DEAR WANTS TO JOIN IN:** You are not overreacting. If you haven’t done so already, discuss this with your husband. He is the one who needs to make his family understand you are now a full-fledged member of the clan. If their line of thinking is followed to its logical conclusion, then no man or woman who marries in is fully accepted. “What God has joined to-

gether, let no man put asunder,” the saying goes. The tradition in Rory’s family creates division, and it isn’t healthy.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a suggestion for your readers. When you attend a funeral or a wake, or meet a friend or relative who has been recently widowed, DON’T say, “If there is anything I can do, just ask.” Call the person in the near future and invite him or her to dinner with you. It doesn’t have to be a steak dinner or anything fancy. A home-cooked pot roast would be wonderful.

Of all my friends, only one has done this several times. The phone rings and he’ll say, “We’re having spaghetti tonight. Would you like to come over? We’ll throw in another meatball.” I get so tired of going out alone to eat, or settling for a sandwich.

GRATEFUL WIDOWER IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR GRATEFUL:** When a death happens, sometimes people are well-intentioned, but they feel awkward and don’t know what to do. Thank you for writing and giving me the opportunity to remind them that it isn’t the FOOD as much as it is the FELLOWSHIP that matters at a time like this.

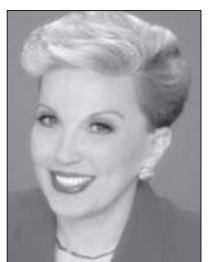
■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** The subject is email, which is how so many of us communicate nowadays. When one gets an email from a friend or relative, it seems to me only common courtesy in most cases to acknowledge it with a response, if only to say thanks. The reply need not be immediate, but there should be one, I think. Many

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



people just don’t reply. What do you think?

TOM IN PALO ALTO

**DEAR TOM:** I think some people may be too busy to respond, particularly if the communication doesn’t seem important or contain a question.

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Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

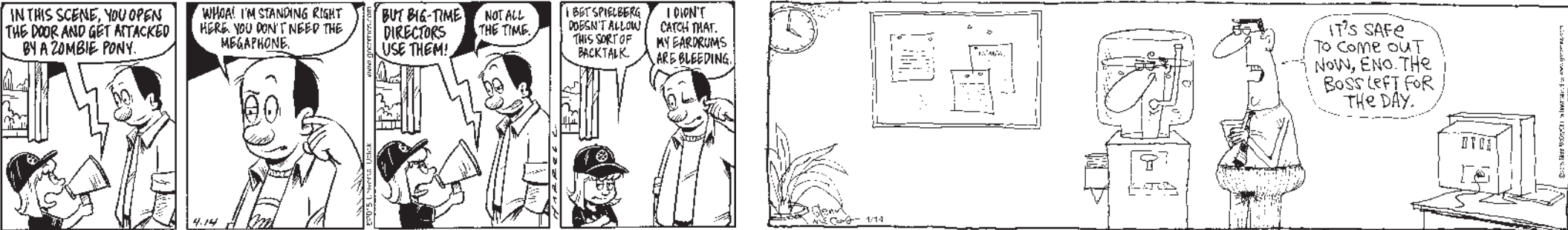
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Did some weeding

5 Cudgel

8 "Left Behind" actor

12 Roundish hairdo

13 Inventor Whitney

14 Rainbow

15 Just lie there

17 Gridlock elements

18 Deity

19 Within one's power

21 Xbox enthusiast

24 Crow or crane

25 "Meta-morphoses" poet

26 Military headquarters

30 Automation, for short

31 Leans to one side

32 Singer DiFranco

33 Cameo's opposite

35 Shell-less

36 Mah-jongg piece

37 Tether

38 "—"

41 Preacher "Man"

41 Vast expanse

42 Related (to)

43 Ham-burger's hello

48 1492

49 Greek vowel

50 Pop choice

51 Carina

52 Tatter

53 Basin accessory

DOWNS

1 Owns

2 Fre-quently

3 Mound stat

4 Followed relentlessly

5 Rosary component

6 Elev.

7 Included as a part of

8 Locust

9 Speedy steed

10 "You go, —!"

11 Being, to Brutus

16 Neither mate

20 Table scraps

21 Asian desert

22 Shake-speare's river

23 Catcher's prop

24 Prove untrue

26 Pirate

27 Festive

28 Responsibility

29 At hand

31 Work-week's end initials

34 Lacking a musical key

35 Rap session?

37 Director Spike

38 Foun-dered

39 "Grapes of Wrath" type

40 Baseball team

41 Unes-corted

44 Actress Hagen

45 AAA job

46 Hearty quaff

47 Needle-fish

Solution time: 22 mins.

YES REBUS ASH  
ALE AGENT LIE  
MY ANTONIA ODE  
OTT TINSFI  
FLOWER SNIT  
LIP DIG SPLAY  
AMID PAS SANE  
BOORS GUT DNA  
NANA PRAYER  
SHEBOP PIG  
TEE ONE OF FOURS  
EAR PEARL SUE  
MRS SAUTE AGE

Yesterday's answer 4-14

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Abigail Breslin, 19; Sarah Michelle Gellar, 38; Adrien Brody, 42; Brad Garrett, 55

**Happy Birthday:** Put your dreams first and your path to success will open. It's important not to neglect the ones you love or avoid your professional responsibilities. Incorporating greater organization into your routine and including the ones you love in your plans will help you reach your destination with ease, and you'll have time left over for personal improvements. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 24, 26, 32, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Someone who is jealous or ruthless will try to outsmart you. Don't be a follower—it's up to you to size up situations and find solutions. Trust your judgment and get things done. Your take-charge attitude will win points. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll receive mixed messages. Don't get involved in a debate or a physical confrontation if you aren't prepared to finish what you start. A loss of respect will result if a personal secret is revealed. Protect your reputation and your position. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't limit the possibilities because you don't want to express your true feelings. Say whatever is on your mind and offer suggestions that can help turn your ideas into a reality. Believe in yourself, project your style with confidence and forge ahead. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't feel the need to donate or help others when it's your own wellness that should con-

cern you. Be smart and make a point to eliminate unhealthy habits. Get informed and strive to make positive lifestyle changes. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't get angry or flustered—get moving. Make changes to your surroundings or search for information that will contribute to your advancement. You can win favors and points if you make good use of your talents. Romance will lead to good fortune. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Stay on top of rates, loans and changing economic issues that can affect your personal financial situation. Be proactive and ferret out information that can help you make wise decisions regarding your professional direction. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Check out any investment that promises to help you improve personally, professionally or financially. Working alongside someone you feel close to will help you bring about the changes you want to see happen. Embark on a new beginning. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stay in sync with your creative ideas and don't let what others are doing sidetrack you. Your imagination will not let you down. Emotional matters can lead to financial loss or poor choices. Don't make a financial commitment you cannot afford. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Listen carefully when it comes to emotional matters. Someone will offer important information that could alter a decision you have to make. Concentrate on the changes you want to

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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make at home. Working alone will bring the best results. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can help your community, but don't let anyone take advantage of you or prompt you to donate too much. Put time and effort into your home and personal surroundings. Don't let a love interest cost you. Be discreet. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** If you take part in industry events or networking with people you have worked with in the past, an opportunity will present itself. Romance is in the stars, and letting someone special know how you feel will enhance your personal life. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't be fooled by others. Take care of matters personally and you won't have regrets later on. A slower pace will give you a chance to consider other options. Keep your personal and professional lives separate. Expect emotional interference. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are objective, compassionate and understanding. You have integrity and depth. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

4/14

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	7	9	8	6	1	5	3
8	6	5	4	3	1	2	9	7
3	1	9	5	7	2	8	6	4
1	7	8	2	6	5	4	3	9
2	5	4	3	1	9	7	8	6
6	9	3	7	4	8	5	1	2
9	3	1	8	2	4	6	7	5
5	8	2	6	9	7	3	4	1
7	4	6	1	5	3	9	2	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LEONARD NIMOY (1931-2015) Solution: 7 letters

FRINGETAROTCODH  
BEMAAIZEBMAZYOX  
AIRVELBISOPMIA  
LTRYTUNEXTAERSM  
CNHLAJACWSBPAIN  
OOUOTMOINEOASEA  
NRBGALLLOBKDSTGR  
YFANUISOEDIHWAR  
AORMGPZRBOERDYA  
BWBHMATANMAAAOT  
NOTIRRLATMCMVO  
ALSDAFEPHLANIFR  
STNTLNOKIRKDKO  
UASEOETIMELSSL  
SCDZTNREKOOHJTE

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Yesterday's Answer: Newspapers  
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# Westbrook scores 54, but Pacers hold off Thunder, 116-104



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored a career-high 54 points Sunday, but Indiana fended off his late charge for a critical 116-104 victory over Oklahoma City.

C.J. Miles matched his season high with 30 points to lead Indiana (37-43) to its fifth straight win and into a tie with Brooklyn for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. The Nets own the tiebreaker.

The Thunder (43-37) lost for the fifth time in six games despite a near triple-double from Westbrook, who had nine rebounds and eight assists. Oklahoma City is tied with New Orleans for the No. 8 seed in the West.

After posting a triple-double in the first game against the Pacers this season, Westbrook nearly did it again. He was 21 of 43 from the field, 5 of 15 on 3s and 7 of 11 from the free throw line. He had 22 points and four assists just in the first quarter.

## Rockets 121, Pelicans 114

In Houston, James Harden scored 30 points as Houston used a big run at the beginning of the fourth quarter to take the lead against New Orleans.

The Rockets ended a two-game skid behind the NBA-leading 35th 30-point game for Harden, who leads the league in scoring.

Corey Brewer and Dwight Howard carried Houston in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter combining for all of the Rockets' points in a 14-5 run that put them on top 100-91. Howard finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Brewer added 20 points.

Anthony Davis had 27 points for the Pelicans.

## Bucks 96, Nets 73

In Milwaukee, Ersan Ilyasova scored 21 points as Milwaukee clinched a playoff spot with its blowout victory over Brooklyn.

Milwaukee also secured the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference, a year after a franchise-worst 67-loss season. O.J. Mayo added 17 points for the Bucks.

Bucks coach Jason Kidd led his team to the clinching victory over the team he coached last season. According to STATS, Kidd is the first coach in NBA history to lead two franchises to the playoffs in his first two years as a head coach.

Brook Lopez had his 17th double-double of the season with 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

## Celtics 117, Cavaliers 78

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 17 points as Boston moved closer to a playoff berth with a victory over a Cleveland team without LeBron James and three other starters.

Coach David Blatt rested James, Kevin Love, Kyrie Ir-



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives against Indiana Pacers forward David West (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, April 12, 2015.

ving and J.R. Smith because the Cavaliers already have clinched the No. 2 postseason spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Celtics magic number for reaching the postseason dropped to one. They would clinch a berth if Indiana loses to Oklahoma City on Sunday night. If the Celtics remain in seventh place in the East, they would face the Cavaliers in the first round.

## Spurs 107, Suns 91

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead San Antonio to its 11th straight victory.

San Antonio moved into second place in the Western Conference and took a half-game lead over idle Memphis in the Southwest Division. The defending champion Spurs have won 21 of 24.

Kawhi Leonard had 18 points and nine rebounds, Marco Belinelli added 13 points and Tony Parker had 10 points and five assists to help San Antonio improve to 55-26.

Gerald Green had 23 points and Eric Bledsoe added 20 points and 10 assists for Phoenix. Eliminated from playoff contention Wednesday night, the Suns have lost four straight and nine of 10 to drop to 39-42.

## Wizards 108, Hawks 99

In Washington, John Wall had no trouble finding his rhythm

after resting for two games, finishing with 24 points and nine assists night to lead Washington to its highest win total in more than 30 years.

Washington improved to 46-34, its first time topping 45 victories since 1978-79. The Wizards closed their regular-season home schedule at 29-12 after going 22-19 last season. They are fifth in the Eastern Conference with two games remaining and will face Toronto or Chicago to open the playoffs.

Atlanta already has clinched the East's No. 1 seed and won a club-record 60 games, so coach Mike Budenholzer rested starters Jeff Teague, Kyle Korver, Al Horford and DeMarre Carroll.

Mike Scott led the Hawks with 19 points.

## Mavericks 120, Lakers 106

In Los Angeles, Tyson Chandler had 20 points as Dallas tuned up for the postseason with a victory over Los Angeles.

Richard Jefferson scored 17 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 16 in the third straight victory for the Mavericks, who will finish seventh in the Western Conference. Dallas led for the final 44 minutes and completed a season sweep of the Lakers for the first time in franchise history.

Wesley Johnson scored 16 points and hit four 3-pointers for Los Angeles before sprain-

ing his left ankle shortly before halftime. Jordan Clarkson had 26 points for the Lakers. They extended their team record with their 59th loss.

## Nuggets 122, Kings 111

In Denver, Kenneth Faried scored a season-high 30 points as Denver spoiled Sacramento coach George Karl's return to Denver.

Wilson Chandler had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Nuggets in their home finale. At 19-22, Denver had a losing record at Pepsi Center for the first time since 2002-03.

That was two years before Karl arrived and turned around the struggling franchise. He won 423 games in nine seasons on the Denver bench, but was fired after losing in the first round of the 2013 playoffs.

Omri Casspi had 22 points for the Kings.

## Pistons 116, Hornets 77

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Andre Drummond had 15 points and 19 rebounds as Detroit Pistons turned its home finale into a rout over Charlotte.

Greg Monroe scored 17 points in what might have been his final home game at the Palace. Monroe is set to become an unrestricted free agent after the season.

Noah Vonleh led Charlotte with 16 points.

## Around the NBA: Picks for NBA awards—and league champion

The final days of the NBA regular season have arrived with a few things still to be decided, such as a scoring champion and exactly who gets what seed in the respective brackets.

When the final whistle of the regular season blows late Wednesday night, it'll be time for two new seasons—the postseason, and awards season.

Here, we're about to tackle both.

AP Basketball Writers—Antonio Gonzalez, Jon Krawczynski, Brian Mahoney and Tim Reynolds—share their unofficial picks for several end-of-season awards. And at this time of year, you can't talk about awards without making a prediction for the NBA Finals.

First, there are still some things to watch this week.

All but two teams will be in action Wednesday night as the season concludes, and the first-round playoff schedule will likely come out late that evening. Then on Saturday, the second season gets underway with the first batch of Game 1 matchups.

Now, drum roll please, the picks:

### MVP

Gonzalez: Stephen Curry, Warriors. The engine powering the NBA's top team all season.

Krawczynski: Stephen Curry, Warriors. James Harden has been phenomenal, but Curry's on-off splits are crazy.

Mahoney: Stephen Curry, Warriors. Record-setting year for Warriors gives him slight edge over James Harden.

Reynolds: Stephen Curry, Warriors. LeBron James is still the best player on Earth, but Curry is the MVP.

### Most Improved Player

Gonzalez: Jimmy Butler, Bulls. First-time All-Star has kept Chicago steady without Derrick Rose.

Krawczynski: Hassan Whiteside, Heat. The guy everyone gave up on is now the guy everyone wishes they had.

Mahoney: James Harden, Rockets. One-time, one-dimensional player does it all now as game's best 2-guard.

Reynolds: Klay Thompson, Warriors. Going from good to great is one thing. From great to superb, that's hard.

### Rookie of the Year

Gonzalez: Andrew Wiggins, Timberwolves. Rising star. Not his fault he plays for Minnesota.

Krawczynski: Andrew Wiggins, Timberwolves. By far, the most consistently superb rookie of the class.

Mahoney: Andrew Wiggins, Timberwolves. Easily the best of an underwhelming class.

Reynolds: Andrew Wiggins, Timberwolves. Just wait until this kid learns how to shoot.

### Defensive Player of the Year

Gonzalez: Draymond Green, Warriors. The best and most versatile defender on the NBA's best defense.

Krawczynski: Draymond Green, Warriors. The straw that stirs the drink for the league's best defense.

Mahoney: Kawhi Leonard, Spurs. Champs went from decent to dominant when he got healthy.

Reynolds: Kawhi Leonard, Spurs. Has the skill the truly great ones have—he can make his matchup disappear.

### Sixth Man of the Year

Gonzalez: Lou Williams, Raptors. Exceeded all expectations for a sometimes-inconsistent team.

Krawczynski: Tristan Thompson, Cavaliers. Brings toughness and defense to the second unit.

Mahoney: Isaiah Thomas, Celtics. Might have helped Suns get in. Might help Celtics do it instead.

Reynolds: Jamal Crawford, Clippers. A very tough call here over Isaiah Thomas. Very tough.

### Coach of the Year

Gonzalez: Steve Kerr, Warriors. Won over players after Mark Jackson's messy firing, and has kept winning.

Krawczynski: Mike Budenholzer, Hawks. Turned a no-name team into the Spurs of the East. No higher compliment.

Mahoney: Steve Kerr, Warriors. Already won Decision of the Year by taking Warriors over Knicks job.

Reynolds: Mike Budenholzer, Hawks. People thought the Warriors would be good. Who expected this from Atlanta?

### NBA Finals Prediction

Gonzalez: Warriors over Cavaliers. LeBron's individual brilliance outdone by a superior team again.

Krawczynski: Spurs over Cavaliers. Spurs have the experience to beat King James and his untested wingmen.

Mahoney: Warriors over Cavaliers. Never got LeBron-Kobe, but LeBron-Curry would be fun.

Reynolds: Spurs over Cavaliers. The only thing the Spurs haven't done is go back-to-back. They will now.



# A-Rod, Yankees break out for 14-4 win over Red Sox



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alex Rodriguez has had some startling success early in his return from a yearlong suspension.

After New York's break-out night in the Bronx, A-Rod thinks the Yankees are ready to surprise some people around the major leagues, too.

Rodriguez had a three-run double in a seven-run first-inning outburst, and the Yankees broke out the bats and avoided their worst start in more than 25 years with a 14-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday night.

Chase Headley and Stephen Drew had consecutive homers as a New York lineup that entered hitting .193 throttled Clay Buchholz (1-1) to avoid a three-game sweep and win for just the second time in six games.

"I think overall it's good to see one through nine come out and get some good at-bats, get some hits," Rodriguez said. "I think this is a game that we needed."

Masahiro Tanaka survived one wild stretch to earn his first victory and with five solid innings somewhat put to rest concern about his right elbow.

Brian McCann hit his 200th career homer in the eighth, Rodriguez walked with the bases loaded for a fourth RBI and Headley added a run-scoring single for New York, which had 16 hits. Carlos Beltran, who entered 2 for 20, singled twice, and Brett Gardner had a two-run single. Every Yankees starter had a hit and scored a run.

"We know we have a really good offense in here," McCann said.

The Red Sox were hoping to match their best start since 2006 at 5-1. Instead, they fell flat heading into Monday's home opener against Washington.

"Two road series wins for us and now we go home—looking forward to the opener tomorrow and getting back in front of our fans," manager John Farrell said.

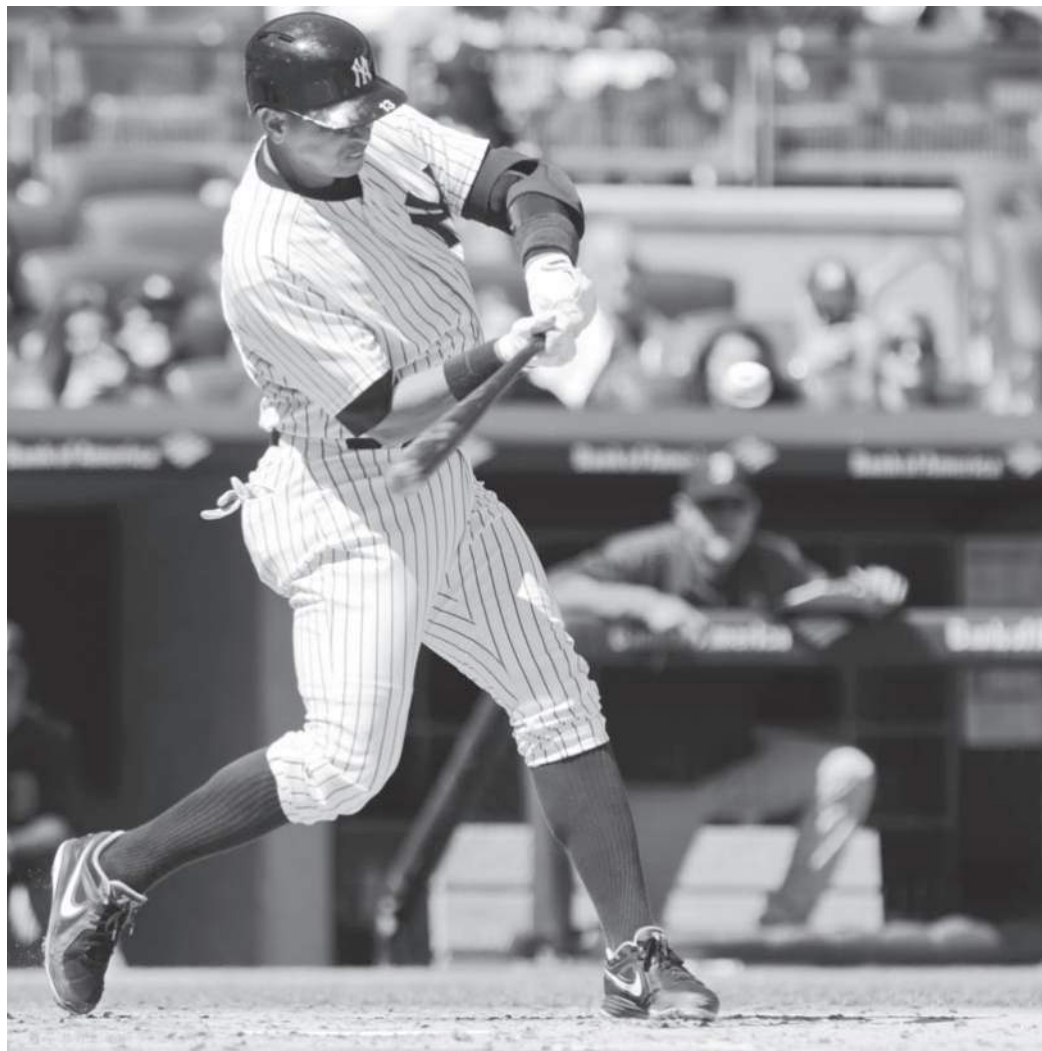
Tanaka (1-1) looked a whole lot more impressive than he did on opening day through three innings, mixing in more fastballs—topping out at 92 mph. He retired nine of his first 11 batters, allowing one hit and a walk.

But he lost control in a 38-pitch fourth, throwing two wild pitches and 17 balls as the Red Sox scored three times. Xander Bogaerts had a two-run double for one of Boston's two hits in the inning.

"I thought he was better with his fastball but he didn't throw as many strikes with his off-speed as he did; it was the opposite," manager Joe Girardi said. "The next step is to put them both together and we'll have Tanaka."

Overall, Tanaka allowed four hits and four runs—three earned. He struck out four and walked three.

Girardi called this an important game for the Yankees—



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez hits a single during the second inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox Saturday, April 11, 2015, in New York.

they last opened the season 1-5 in 1989—before a stretch in which they play 25 of 35 on the road.

The Yankees hadn't even had a hit in the first inning through five games, but on Sunday they had their highest-scoring first inning against the Red Sox since putting up eight runs on Aug. 15, 1954.

Batting sixth, Rodriguez came up with the bases loaded and drilled a liner into the gap in left-center. Buchholz kicked at the cleats cleaner on the back of the mound after McCann scored from first.

Headley followed with two-run shot and, two pitches later, Drew connected for a 7-0 lead.

"It was fun," Headley said. "It takes the burden off."

Hanley Ramirez hit his third homer, a solo shot off Tanaka in the fifth, and added a sacrifice fly.

The Yankees chased Buchholz with one out in the fourth after Mark Teixeira's sacrifice fly made it 10-3.

Buchholz yielded 10 runs—nine earned—nine hits and two walks.

"Felt good with all of my pitches. The command was a little off at first but after that I felt really good," Buchholz said

## Tigers 8, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera homered twice and drove in four runs as the Detroit Tigers improved to 6-0 for the first time in 30 years with an 8-5 win over the Cleveland Indians on Sunday.

Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the first off T.J. House (0-1), and J.D. Martinez added a solo shot in the ninth as the Tigers

finished off a three-game sweep.

Cabrera went 4 for 4 with his first two homers this season, a double and single. With Cabrera needing a triple for the cycle, Indians manager Terry Francona intentionally walked him in the eighth even though there was a runner on first.

Kyle Lobstein (1-0) allowed three runs and eight hits in five innings, and Joakim Soria worked the ninth for his second save.

## Pirates 10, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Andrew McCutchen homered and drove in four runs in his return to Pittsburgh's lineup, and Neil Walker hit a three-run shot.

McCutchen took himself out of Friday night's game because of soreness in his left knee and didn't play Saturday.

Casey Sadler (1-0) earned his first major league win, going five innings in his first career start.

Kyle Lohse (0-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

## Rays 8, Marlins 5

In Miami, Nathan Karns (1-1) allowed two runs—one earned—and two hits in seven innings for his second career victory.

The Marlins, who came into the season with high hopes, went 1-5 on their opening homestand. Center fielder Marcell Ozuna was scratched from the lineup as punishment for being late to batting practice.

Miami reserve third baseman Don Kelly and backup catcher Jeff Mathis suffered similar injuries that forced them from the game. Each broke the ring finger on his right hand.

David DeJesus had a three-

run homer off Henderson Alvarez (0-2) that helped the Rays build a 7-2 lead.

## Cardinals 7, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Matt Carpenter hit a two-run homer off Kevin Gregg (0-1) in the 11th inning.

Carlos Villanueva (1-0) pitched two innings, working out of a bases-loaded jam in the 10th by striking out Todd Frazier. St. Louis took two of three in the series and has won 13 consecutive three-game series against Cincinnati.

Cuban right-hander Raisel Iglesias for the Reds and allowed three runs and five hits in five innings with two walks and four strikeouts. Signed last July to a \$27 million, seven-year contract, he became the first Reds player since Mike Leake in 2010 to reach the majors without playing a minor league game.

## Blue Jays 10, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Jose Bautista hit the last of Toronto's three home runs, a two-run drive in the eighth off Darren O'Day.

Dalton Pompey and Kevin Pillar also connected for the Blue Jays, who doubled their home-run total for the season. Toronto scored 23 runs in the three-game series, twice reaching double figures.

Aaron Loup (1-1) pitched 1 2-3 perfect innings after starter Drew Hutchison gave up a career-high tying seven runs and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings. Miguel Castro worked the ninth for his second save.

Orioles starter Chris Tillman (1-1) allowed seven runs—three earned—and six hits in 2 2-3 innings.

## Nationals 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Wilson Ramos drove in the decisive run in the 10th with his second RBI of the day.

Bryce Harper homered and Clint Robinson had three hits for the Nationals, who salvaged a win in the three-game series.

Yunel Escobar led off the 10th with a double off Jake Diekman (0-1) and scored on Justin De Fratus' wild pitch for a 3-2 lead.

Aaron Barrett (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth, and Drew Storen got his second save after allowing Odubel Herrera's run-scoring infield single.

## Mets 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Bartolo Colon helped himself with his first RBI in a decade, and Daniel Murphy hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth, dropping the Braves to 5-1.

Backed by Michael Cuddyer's two-run homer in the first inning, Colon led 3-2 before Jonny Gomes' seventh-inning homer just inside the left-field pole. Colon (2-0) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings.

Juan Jaime (0-1) walked Curtis Granderson and Anthony Recker opening the eighth.

Jeury Familia got two outs for his first save.

## White Sox 6, Twins 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale (1-0) struck out eight over six innings in his return from a broken bone in his right foot, allowing one run and five hits.

Adam LaRoche homered for the second straight day and had a run-scoring single.

Minnesota dropped to 1-5 under new manager Paul Molitor. Phil Hughes gave up three runs and eight hits in six innings, struck out four and walked none.

## Astros 6, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Hank Conger hit a two-run homer in the 14th inning following George Springer's leaping catch at the right-field wall on a ball hit by Leonys Martin in the 10th.

Conger homered after Evan Gattis reached base for the first time this season—on a walk in his 21st plate appearance this year.

Will Harris (1-0) retired six straight batters. He struck out the side in the 12th, his 19th consecutive scoreless outing dating to August.

Samuel Deduno loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the 14th but got his first big league save when Rougned Odor lined out to right field.

## Royals 9, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Alcides Escobar and Alex Rios hit two-run doubles, and Salvador Perez homered as AL champion Kansas City improved to 6-0.

The winning streak is the Royals' second-longest to open a season after a 9-0 start in 2003.

The Angels' Albert Pujols hit his 522nd home run, moving

past Ted Williams, Willie McCovey and Frank Thomas for sole possession of 18th on the career list.

Yordano Ventura (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits in 5 2-3 innings to beat C.J. Wilson (1-1), who gave up seven runs—six earned—and nine hits over 5 2-3 innings.

## Mariners 8, Athletics 7

In Oakland, California, Nelson Cruz homered for the second straight day, hitting a solo drive off Tyler Clippard (0-1) in the 10th inning.

Mariners ace Felix Hernandez left after five innings as a precaution because of tightness in his right quadriceps. Seattle took a 7-3 lead into the ninth before Oakland rallied to tie it against closer Fernando Rodney (1-0).

Seattle won despite getting outhit 14-7.

Yoervis Medina got three outs his first save in nearly two years.

## Cubs 6, Rockies 5

In Denver, former Rockies player Dexter Fowler hit a two-run homer on a hanging slider from LaTroy Hawkins (1-1) on an 0-2 pitch with two outs in the ninth inning.

Neil Ramirez (1-0) earned the win by getting two outs in the eighth. Hector Rondon got his second save of the season as the Cubs won for the second time in the three-game series.

## Padres 6, Giants 4

In San Diego, backup catcher Wil Nieves hit his first career grand slam, a drive off former San Diego star Jake Peavy, as the Padres won three of four in their series against the defending World Series champions.

It was the first career slam and just the 10th homer overall for the 37-year-old Nieves, who was a 47th-round draft pick of the Padres in 1995. He signed as a minor league free agent in January and won the backup job after Tim Federowicz, obtained from the Dodgers in the Matt Kemp deal, was sidelined following knee surgery.

Peavy (0-1), whose first start of the season was delayed because of a back injury, allowed four runs and four hits in four innings.

Tyson Ross (1-0) gave up three runs and five hits in six innings, and Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his second save.

## Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Alex Guerrero had his first big league homer, went 3 for 5 and four RBIs to back Zack Greinke (1-0), who allowed five hits in seven scoreless innings. Los Angeles avoided a three-game sweep with.

Yasiel Puig hit his first homer of 2015 off Josh Collmenter (0-2). Joc Pederson had his first big league homer and three of Los Angeles' 16 hits.



# MP United donates to GES



MP United officials and Garapan Elementary School staff and students pose with the football club's donated paper products during a turnover ceremony last Friday at the GES office.

MP United Football Club turned over donated paper products to Garapan Elementary School last Friday.

Club president Vickie Izuka, vice president Lydia Tan, technical director Norman del Rosario, and general secretary Ana Hilario led the turnover ceremony, while GES vice principal Derwin Johnson and staff Laura Matsunaga received the donation and were joined by some students.

"The club asked every family from our U8 to U18 players to come out with the donations for this paper drives. We started this paper drives at MPU rally since February. We are very thankful to the MPU family for these donations," Tan said.

"We're grateful to MP United Football Club for their generosity. These paper products will be used by our students and staff," Johnson said.

MP United has been making donations to the Home of the Mallards for the past three years to strengthen their partnership and thank Garapan for accommodating the club's players during games and practices. In the past, MP United donated books and soccer balls to Garapan.

Just late last month, the Mallards field hosted the exhibition games between MP United and its sister club Vivid Blue of Saipan. The school also allowed some players from the visiting team to join a cultural exchange program with its students.

"GES supports out soccer program by allowing us to use the school field for practices and friendly games," Tan said.

Meanwhile, the exhibition matches between Vivid Blue and MP United helped the latter's players practice what they learned from coaching and referee clinics.

Kennedy Izuka and John Diego Masga coached the co-ed U12 A and B teams that challenged the visiting squad. Both players passed the NMIFA D license coaching course CNMI coach and NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi conducted before the spring season. Other MP United U18 and U15 players officiated the games.

"We are grateful to these young coaches as they help the club further enhance player development at the oldest grassroots ages and the younger competitive teams. Chris Park is assistant coach for U18 boys, Jehn Joyner is the assistant coaches for U15 boys, Enrico del Rosario and Kyle Chung are the coaches for U15 girls. All of them passed the D license course," Vickie Izuka said in an earlier email to *Saipan Tribune*. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



## SPIETH

From Page 28

But it gnawed at Spieth.

"I was already hungry from last year," he said. "I had an opportunity and watched it slip away."

When he drove down Magnolia Lane this year, Spieth was even more ticked off. In his two previous tournaments, he finished second and lost in a playoff. Never mind that he had won right before those two close calls, stamping him as the hottest player on the PGA Tour.

That's the thing about this generation of golfers.

They're not very patient.

It sure bodes well for golf in this inevitable changing of the guard, from players such as Mickelson and Tiger Woods—who aren't done yet, by the way—to the youngsters like Spieth and 25-year-old Rory McIlroy, now 1-2 in the world ranking with five major titles between them.

Spieth, who was bothered by "hav-

ing a chance to win the last couple of weeks and not quite pulling it off," made everyone pay at the Masters.

Leading from start to finish, he began with an 8-under 64 for the lowest opening round at the Masters in 19 years, set scoring records for 36 and 54 holes, made a staggering 28 birdies (another tournament mark), and became the first player in Augusta history to reach 19 under when he rolled in a birdie putt at the 15th hole Sunday.

He sucked all the drama out of the final round, making sure no one got closer than three shots to the lead.

Spieth closed with a 2-under 70 to finish four shots clear of Mickelson and Justin Rose.

About the only thing Spieth missed was having the 72-hole record all to himself. He bogeyed the last hole to finish with at 18-under 270, tying Woods' performance while winning his first green jacket in 1997.

"It all happened so quickly," Spieth surmised. But he quickly added, "I feel ready to carry that baton."

His victory sets up a tantalizing new

rivalry with McIlroy in a sport that has always thrived on matchups, whether it was Hogan vs. Snead and Nelson; Nicklaus vs. Palmer and Watson; or Woods vs. Mickelson.

Spieth isn't ready to call it an even matchup, considering Boy Wonder already has four major titles and arrived at Augusta looking to complete a career Grand Slam.

But this past week at Augusta sure turned it up a notch.

"He's got four majors. That's something I can still only dream about," Spieth said. "I look forward to getting in the heat of the moment with him a couple of times in the near future and see if we can battle it out and test our games."

McIlroy didn't have a chance in this one.

No one did.

The world's top-ranked player was 10 shots behind going to the final round and realistic about his chances. A sluggish start doomed any hope of putting some heat on Spieth, though McIlroy did close with six birdies on his final 12

holes for a 6-under 66 that left him six shots behind.

"I played well," he said. "I can take a lot of positives from it."

It wasn't all about youth.

At 44, Mickelson has clearly come up with a formula that should give him a few more chances to add to his five major titles. He's largely blown off the regular PGA Tour, focusing all his energy on the majors. It worked at Muirfield in 2013, where he rallied to win the British Open. It led to runner-up finishes at the last two majors, even when his other results provided little evidence he was ready to contend.

Now, with McIlroy's Grand Slam quest on hold for another year, the focus turns to Mickelson in June at the U.S. Open, where he will try to add the only title missing from his resume.

"I'll be trying to get my game sharp heading into that week," Mickelson said. "I'll have a different tactic (than Augusta). I'll try to play more of a controlled-style game, getting the ball in play, getting the short game sharp."

Woods, whose game was such a

mess just two months ago, re-emerged at Augusta and showed some of his old flair. The 39-year-old never seriously contended on the final day—and raised a few eyebrows when he claimed a "bone popped out" when he struck a tree root on a swing—but a 5-under 283 showed that he's at least headed in the right direction.

Yep, the future of the game looks bright.

For both the short and long term.

## VICTORIA

From Page 28

31st Saipan International Fishing Tournament set from July 25 to 26 also at Smiling Cover Marina in Garapan.

The boat *Carmelita* came in second in the Mahi category with its 23.80-lb catch and settled for the \$750 cash prize,

while the *Zeppelin* of Tan Holdings legal counsel Steve Pixley placed third with a 22.50-lb mahi and won \$500.

The *San Juan* and *A.J.* rounded up the Top 5 winners with 20.75 and 19.20 lbs, respectively, for in-kind prizes.

*Keilani-Ko* ruled the wahoo side event with the heaviest single catch of 23.95 lbs, while *Boni* placed second with a 21.20-pounder. *CM569CF* was

third (19.35 lbs) and *Princess Monie* fifth (17.05 lbs).

A total of 38 boats joined Saturday's event that was co-organized by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Saipan Fishermen's Association, which was established in 1985.

"Though the waters were a little bit rough, it was a pretty good turnout for a fishing tournament for single species

of fish. We were expecting 25 boats but it exceeded that," said Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman.

He added that the July international fishing tournament is the next event that they are preparing for since a number of off-island competitors are expected to join. "We're expecting at least 70 or more."

## SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

its unbeaten record in nine games and strengthened its hold to the top spot in the seven-team field.

The pacesetter was automatically awarded with three goals due to the victory via forfeiture, bringing its total so far to a league-best 35 goals. MP United was stuck at 18, while allowing 24 goals and dropping to a 5-1-4 win-

draw-loss record for third place in the team standings behind Tan Holdings.

Tan Holdings retained the No. 2 spot following a 3-0 win against Independents, which waved the white flag early in the second half due to fatigue.

Young guns Jennifer Perena, Renita Fleming, and Chloe Salvosa scored one goal apiece for Tan Holdings, which fielded a lot of fresh legs in the match against the veteran players of Independents FC.

Tan Holdings improved its record

to 6-3-1 and increased its goals total to 29, the second best in the league. Independents FC fell to a 2-0-7 mark and has scored only eight goals so far, while giving up 25.

In other results last Saturday, Matansa FC and Kanoa FC settled for a 2-2 draw.

Bernadette Horey and Marielle Gariguez hit one goal apiece for Matansa and Kanoa, respectively, while the opposing teams were awarded with an own goal each. Horey put Matansa in the board with her shot in the first half,

while Kanoa equalized early in the second half with an own goal. Matansa regained the upper hand as it was the team's turn to get a break off Kanoa's miscue. However, Kanoa tied the match anew, thanks to Gariguez's goal.

With the draw, Kanoa is still at the No. 4 spot in the team standings with its 4-3-2 record and 24 goals. Matansa is two notches down at sixth place with its 1-0-7 mark and 11 goals. Idle Paire is at the bottom of the team standings, holding a 0-0-7 record and the least goals (4).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	48	32	.600	—
Boston	38	42	.475	10
Brooklyn	37	43	.463	11
Philadelphia	18	62	.225	30
New York	16	64	.200	32
Southeast Division				
z-Atlanta	60	20	.750	—
x-Washington	46	34	.575	14
Miami	35	45	.438	25
Charlotte	33	47	.413	27
Orlando	25	55	.313	35
Central Division				
y-Cleveland	51	29	.638	—
x-Chicago	48	32	.600	3
x-Milwaukee	40	40	.500	11
Indiana	37	43	.463	14
Detroit	31	49	.388	20
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	55	26	.679	—
x-Memphis	54	26	.675	1/2
x-Houston	54	26	.675	1/2
x-Dallas	49	31	.613	5 1/2
New Orleans	43	37	.538	11 1/2
Northwest Division				
y-Portland	51	29	.638	—
Oklahoma City	43	37	.538	8
Utah	37	43	.463	14
Denver	30	50	.375	21
Minnesota	16	64	.200	35
Pacific Division				
z-Golden State	65	15	.813	—
x-L.A. Clippers	54	26	.675	11
Phoenix	39	42	.481	26 1/2
Sacramento	27	53	.338	38
L.A. Lakers	21	59	.263	44
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
z-clinched conference				



# Jeremiah, Caleb pound foes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

Jeremiah and Caleb posted lopsided wins in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the curtain-raiser, Jeremiah capped its regular season campaign with a bang after routing Joshua, 83-67, while in the second match, Caleb also cruised its way past Ezekiel, 94-53.

Caleb used a 20-3 scoring barrage in the first five minutes of the match to put the game away early against the erratic Ezekiel. With the win, Caleb moved up to second place in the team standings, dislodging Isaiah (5-2) as the former improved to a 5-1 record, just two wins behind regular season top finisher Daniel (7-0). Caleb was scheduled to play its final game last night against Joshua and results of that match along with the Gideon-Ezekiel tiff will determine the playoff pairings for the six other teams.

Jeremiah is already paired against the last-ranked and winless Samuel (0-7), while the other playoff match-ups will have the No. 2 team taking on the No. 7 squad, No. 3 versus No. 6, and No. 4 against No. 5. Gideon is in third place with its 3-3 mark, while Joshua and Ezekiel have similar 2-4 slates.

Ezekiel absorbed another loss, as it scored only one field goal against Caleb in the first five minutes of the match off Noel Conti's triple. Caleb, on the other hand, drew a bundle from Michael Cabanas, who fired 13 points in the first half and got a lot of support from his teammates to give their squad a 40-28 halftime edge.

Caleb never looked back with Cabanas still having the hot hands, adding 17 more markers in the second half. Saipan Southern High School standout Nathan Borromeo also showed up in the second half, chipping in 13 to finish with 19. Cabanas

ended up with 30 points, while Joseph Gatdula was the third Caleb player to net double figures with his 10. Mike Surima paced Ezekiel with his 22 points.

In the first game, Ramsa Tenepere and Jay Nunag teamed up in towing Jeremiah to the 16-point win. Tenepere scored 28 and Nunag added 23 as they led Jeremiah's second-half breakaway.

Jeremiah was ahead by only 2 after the first half, 43-41, when Tenepere and Nunag alternately hit multiple baskets in the second half and lifted their squad to back-to-back victories after barging into the win column late last month with a 67-56 triumph over Samuel. Tenepere exploded for 19 points in the second half, more than doubling his first-half output (9). Nunag had twin digits in both halves with his 12 and 11. Mark Rabago also hit double figures, registering 14 in the first half, 12 of them came from the 3-point area.

Darwin Gonzalez led Joshua's losing cause with his 22 points. He was the only Joshua player

to knock in more than two field goals in the second half.

## First Game

**Jeremiah 83** – Tenepere 28, Nunag 33, Rabago 14, Cabaoas 6, Lizardo 4, Deang 2, Casuncad 2, Formales 2, Lansangan 2.

**Joshua 67** – Gonzales 22, Isip 16, Eugenio 12, Dequito 7, Calub 6, Abe 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 43-41, 83-67.

## Second Game

**Caleb 94** – Cabanas 30, Borromeo 19, Gatdula 10, Ocanada 9, Morales 8, Sacdalan 6, Castro 4, Huddleston 4, Bacani 2.

**Ezekiel 53** – Surima 22, Conti 12, Irog 8, Velasquez 6, Alcantara 3, Lizardo 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 40-28, 94-53.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Caleb's Edison Castro goes up for a reverse layup against two Ezekiel defenders during the first half of their game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



## Homeboyz, Titans try to catch up with Route 33



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers captain Jerry Soriano, second right, joins his teammates after winning their match against cellar-dwelling Abyss Homeboyz II in the Tuesday Open 8-Ball billiards league.

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

The Jokers Homeboyz and Abyss Titans try to catch up with Route 33 Alamo Car Rental, which is still on top of the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Route 33 holds a 91-59 record to enjoy an eight-win lead over the Homeboyz and Titans, who are tied from second to third with 83-67 slates. The Abyss Rack 'N' Roll and Wild Bills are also closely behind at 82-68.

Route 33 increased its lead after a 10-5 triumph over Jonny's Team SCS (64-86). The Homeboyz and Titans could have narrowed down the lead, but encountered mixed results

in their last week's games over separate opponents.

The Homeboyz found the Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball a tough foe as they only settled for an 8-7 decision, while the Titans were at the losing end against the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot, 8-7.

Abyss Rack 'N' Roll and Wild Bill's could also contend for the crown or at least a top three finish but need to rack up more wins to dislodge the title favorites.

Rack 'N' Roll scored an easy 12-3 win over the Barcode Breakers (46-104), while Wild Bill's suffered a 10-5 defeat at the hands of the Jokers Wonderpool Aces (71-79).

Route 33 takes on Magic 8-Ball (76-74) in Thursday's Week 11, while the Titans visit

the Homeboyz. The Breakers face the Deadshots in an all-Barcode match, the Rack 'N' Roll clash with the Wonderpool Aces, and Wild Bills battle Team SCS.

In the Tuesday League, cellar-dwelling Abyss Homeboyz II (63-87) forced the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers to a 9-6 win, but the latter remains atop the standings with a 91-59 mark against the 81-69 slate of the Jokers IT&E Voyagers, a 10-5 loser to the third-running Abyss Crazy 8 (73-77).

The Smoke Pub Ali'I Destroyers (70-80) escaped with an 8-7 victory against the Jokers STR8 Shooters (72-78).

Tonight's matches will have the Voyagers hosting the Homeboyz II, the Hustlers visiting the Destroyers, and the STR8 Shooters battling Crazy 8.

By **JON PEREZ**

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REPORTER

Starting pitcher Zack Reyes tossed five shutout innings and the Little Falcons soared to a 9-0 win in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan ballfield.

Only two games were played over the weekend after the SLL participated in Saturday's Carnival, held in celebration of the Mariana Resort's 37th anniversary.

The Comets won by default against the Jets, while the Natibu Sports Association Braves also scored an easy 11-2 triumph over Team McDonald's.

Reyes gave up two hits while retiring 12 and walking four batters he faced before being relieved by Avan Evangelista in the top of the sixth with Sean Rabauliman up to bat.

Reyes struck out Kaipo Diki-to for the first out before Evangelista came in.

Rabauliman got on base on a fielding error by James Salalila, but got stranded on first base after Evangelista fanned John Pangelinan then forced Delbert Sablan to a game-ending infield fly that was caught by Isiah Teigita.

Evangelista was a home run short of hitting the cycle going 3-for-4 with three runs and an RBI. He had a double in the first inning and an RBI triple in the second.

Keoni Serrano went 2-for-3 with one run scored and a double in the fifth where the game was already in the bag for the Little Falcons.

Kyle Kapileo had an RBI single in the second, while Melanio Sablan drove in two runs in the Little Falcons' four-run first inning rally.

**Braves 11, McDonald's 2**

Vicente Camacho blasted two inside-the-park home runs, while catcher Anthony Dison and third baseman Tristan Norita had one each in the Braves' victory.

Camacho went 3-for-3 with solo homers in the second and fourth innings with two RBIs. Dison belted a two-run shot also in the second tagging along Heath Camacho in reaching home plate. Norita had a solo round-tripper in the fourth.

Vicente Camacho tossed four no-hit innings with one unearned run, where Donovan Deleon Guerrero scored on a Dison throwing error in the top of the fourth. He also struck out 10 batters and walked three.

Anthony Norita threw two two-hit innings allowing one earned run by Joven Atalig, who singled in the fifth, while fanning five and walking four.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kagman Little Legals of attorney Robert Torres is one of the competing teams in the Saipan Little League's Majors division.





Jeremiah,  
Caleb  
pound foes

PAGE 27

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Westbrook scores  
54, but Pacers  
hold off Thunder,  
116-104

PAGE 24



28 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## SPIETH dominates a Masters that shows golf in good hands

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

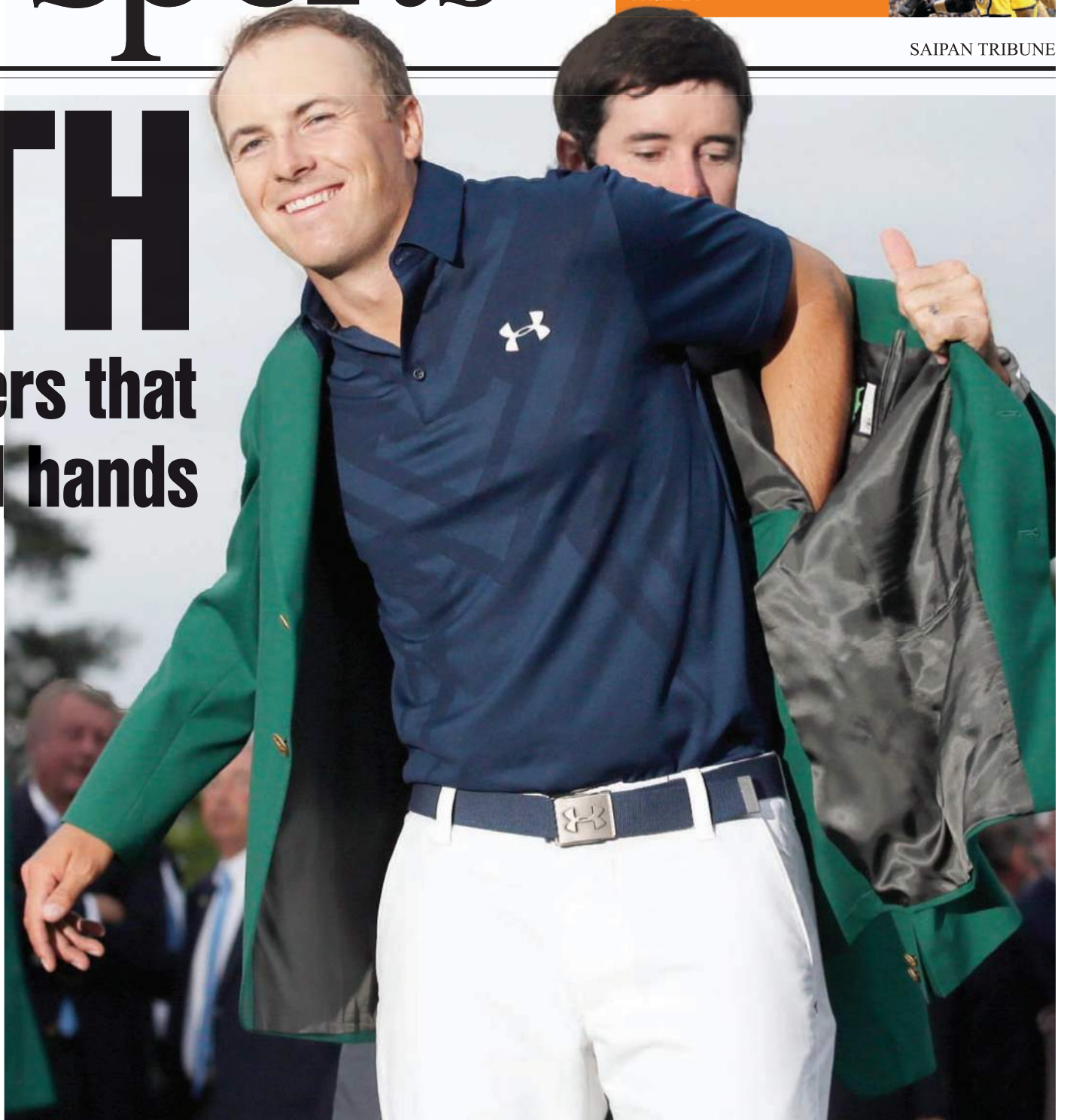
Jordan Spieth never really suffered. Certainly not like Phil Mickelson, who came close so many times before finally winning his first major title.

Yet, not long after Spieth slipped on the green jacket at age 21, the second-youngest champion in the history of the Masters, he pondered what pushed him to one of the game's greatest performances. There was that runner-up



finish in the 2014 Masters, when he had a two-shot lead with 11 holes to play but faded to a runner-up finish behind Bubba Watson. A fine showing, indeed, for someone so young playing Augusta National for the first time.

See **SPIETH** on **Page 26**



Bubba Watson helps Jordan Spieth put on his green jacket for the second time after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 12, 2015, in Augusta, Ga. AP

## Victoria rules Mahi fishing derby

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente and his crew aboard *Victoria* caught the day's heaviest catch to rule the 11th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby held last Saturday that began and ended at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Benavente, along with his crew that included son James and Scott Shular, captured a 24.40-lb Mahi to clinch the top honors and pocket the \$1,000 winner's purse.

Benavente and company also placed fourth in the wahoo side event after snaring a 17.15-pounder.

The *Victoria* is a regular fixture in the Mahi tournament and is expected to be one of the local boats that would compete in the

See **VICTORIA** on **Page 26**



From left, former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente is joined by wife Vicky, Scott Shular, and son James aboard the *Victoria*, which ruled Saturday's 11th Annual Mahi Fishing Tournament. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings FC's Renita Fleming, right, is up against two Independents FC defenders during the first half of their game in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

## Shirley's, Tan Holdings ease past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and Tan Holdings FC bagged easy wins in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



League-leading Shirley's FC had a free ride to victory after a no-show from MP United in the first game of the weekend. With the win, Shirley's kept

See **SHIRLEY'S** on **Page 26**